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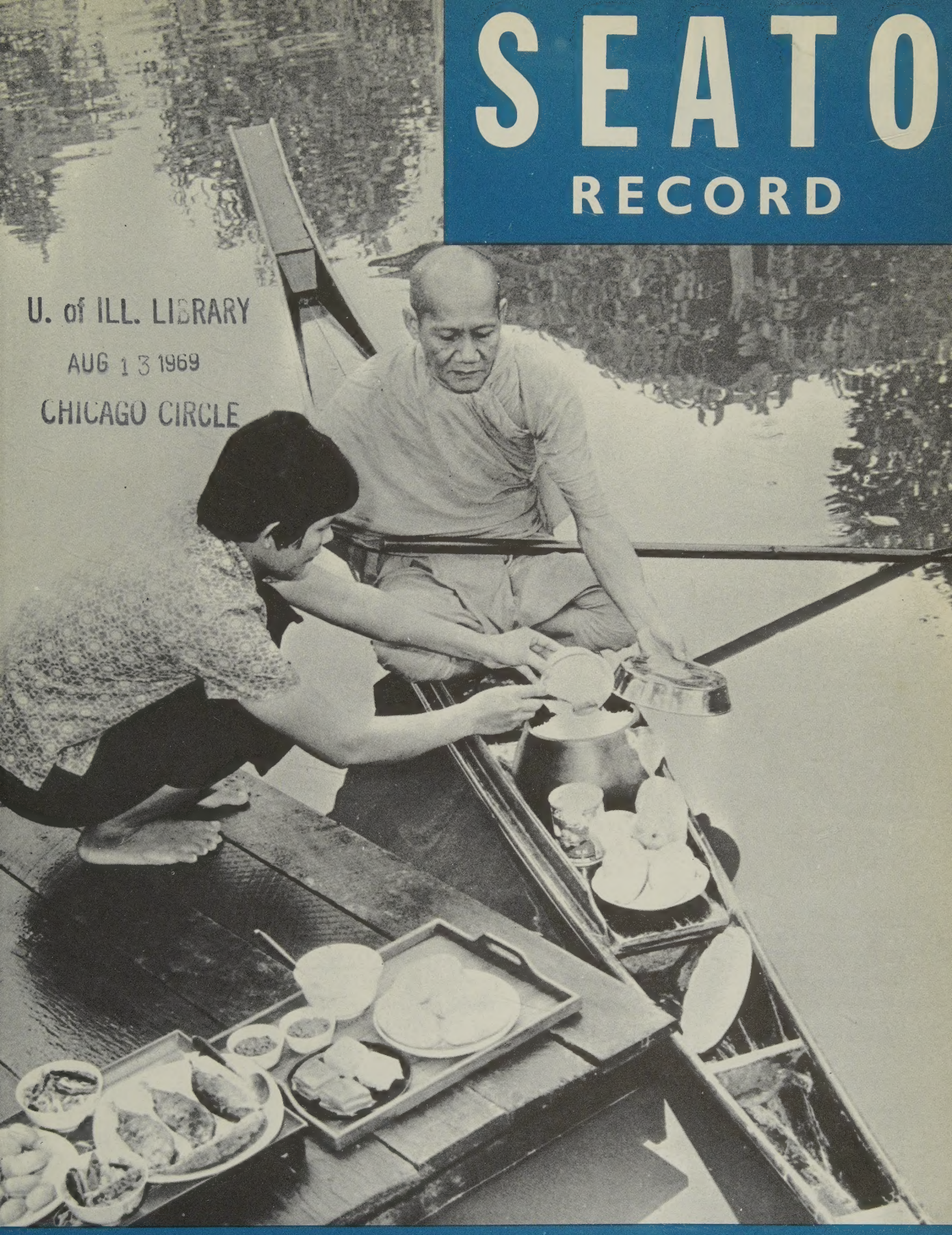

. VII No. 3

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- BANGKOK: METROPOLIS OF DEITIES
- TAMING THE MIGHTY MEKONG
- SCHOLARS ON THE MOVE

SEATO RECORD

SEATO RECORD features significant events in South-East Asia, as well as activities of the Organization and its member nations. It reports statements which reflect attitudes or policies related to SEATO's role as a defensive organization.

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COVER PICTURE:

Staff photographer Chusak Disyanant snapped this picture of a Buddhist monk being offered food by a householder along a small klong (canal) in Bangkok tucked away among bamboo groves, yet only a few minutes' walk from a bustling, four-lane highway. Daily offerings of food to monks is a familiar sight in Bangkok, one of the fastest developing cities in South-East Asia and the home of many regional organizations including SEATO.

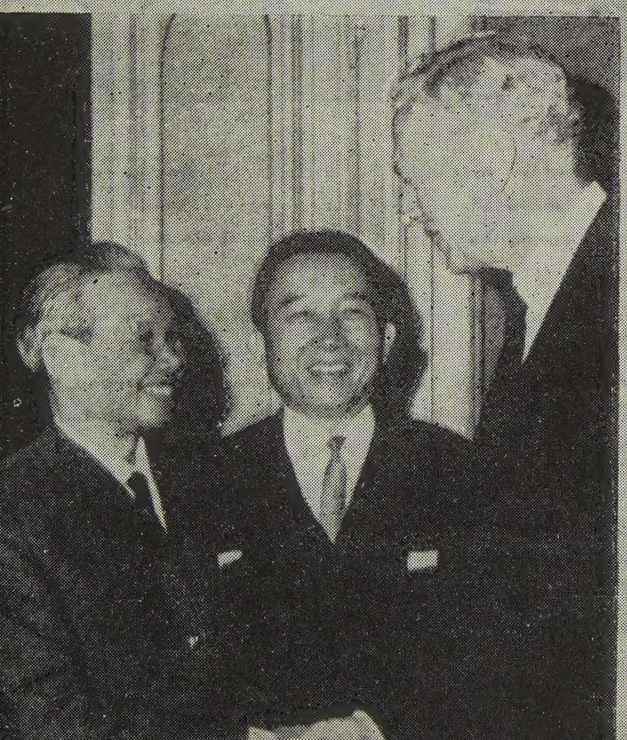
"SEATO Record" is published six times a year. Inquiries from official private organizations, educational institutions, libraries etc., are welcomed should be addressed to the Public Information Office, SEATO Headquart P.O. Box 517, Bangkok, Thailand.

A smile... A handshake ...What else?

A smile and a handshake for the chief delegates to the talks on Viet-Nam from former French Foreign Minister, M. Maurice Couvre de Murville soon after their arrival in Paris. Above, he greets Averell Harriman, and below, head of the North Vietnamese Delegation, Mr. Xuan Thuy.

Talking point in Paris

..IN SEARCH OF A DIALOGUE



STRIKES and riots that brought France to the brink of chaos; the tragic shooting of Senator Robert Kennedy; the loss of a nuclear submarine with all hands... These last few weeks have indeed been dramatically eventful ones—and yet probably still uppermost in the minds of most people has been the fate of the critical peace talks on Viet-Nam which at the time of writing are still hanging precariously in the balance.

Since the stage was set in Paris, more than a month ago, the world has been watching apprehensively from the wings, speculating, surmising...hoping, as the United States and North Vietnamese delegates endeavour to thrash out a mutually acceptable formula for talks that will bring peace to war-torn Viet-Nam.

Would they succeed, or would they become bogged-down in a morass of woolly generalities and propaganda diatribes that could lead to an ultimate deadlock? Such was the question diplomats and politicians were asking, even before the chief delegates had arrived in Paris: Ambassador Averall Harriman, representing the United States; Xuan Thuy representing North Viet-Nam.

That the talks would linger on like the proverbial melody, observers were fully prepared to accept even before they started. But whether it was to be a melody of discords, or one of harmony, only time could tell.

Now, after six weeks and many sessions round the conference table, it is patently clear just how harsh and strident these discords have become. Indeed, the United States delegation must have been hard put to preserve that "patience, flexibility and determination"—that Mr. Harriman pledged to preserve at the outset—in the face of bellicose statements and propaganda continually mouthed by the North

Vietnamese in the overtones that so often characterize Communist semantics.

Repeated demands by Mr. Harriman and his associates to discuss points upon which common ground could be reached have met with nothing but the same old propaganda theme repeated by the North Vietnamese with hysterical monotony.

So long as Xuan Thuy and his colleagues stubbornly persisted in denying that North Vietnamese forces were in fact fighting in the South—despite overwhelming and conclusive evidence to the contrary—clearly no head-way could be made. How to reconcile on the one hand, Xuan Thuy's demand that all United States bombing of the North cease, as a condition for withdrawing troops from the South; and on the other his bland assertion that there were in fact no troops from the North in the South?

It is clearly impossible to inject any semblance of rational human intercourse into this upside-down realm of fantasy. And it is largely this Alice-in-Wonderland "logic" that has threatened to stalemate the talks. Which of course, poses the question that this in fact has been the very intention of the North Vietnamese right from the outset. And yet, it would seem that there *must* be very real and pertinent reasons for Xuan Thuy and his delegates to indulge in 'illogical' logic.

To use the talks as a propaganda platform can really only serve to reap marginal benefits for Hanoi. The superficial accusations; the hackneyed jargon; the banal phraseology bandied about with wild irrelevance to the points at issue must surely confound even the most indulgent 'fencesitter'.

As a device to save face, it has been equally pointless, because in no sense has the North Vietnamese delegation had cause to lose it. They have virtually had everything their own way—with Washington leaning over backwards to enable them to preserve their sense of dignity.

What is one left with? Simply the conclusion that the real purpose has been to delay the talks so as to gain time. Time for what? Time to reinforce—under the reprieve of a partial bombing pause—their heavily-mauled battalions south of the DMZ; time to undermine that "patience, flexibility, and determination" with which Mr. Harriman and his delegates resolved to approach the discussions from the outset; and time above all, to see which way the political winds will blow during the November Presidential elections in the United States.

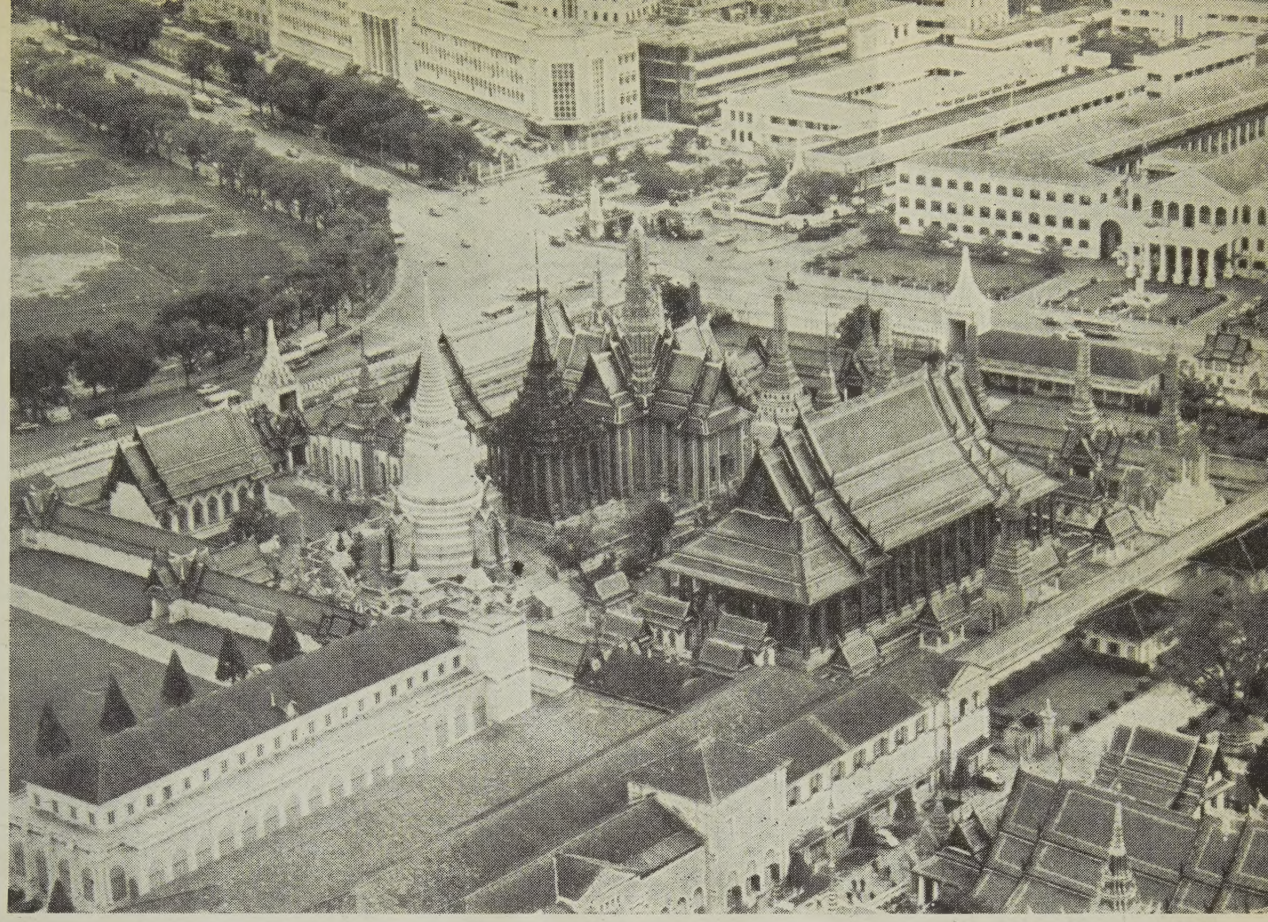
That Hanoi realizes the potential danger of over-playing its hand in this game of "wait-and-see" is possibly reflected by the appearance of a new face around the conference table in the form of the beaming countenance of Ho Chi Minh's personal envoy Le Duc Tho.

Initially as rigid and discouraging as chief delegate Xuan Thuy—albeit smilingly so—there is yet hope that he may soften his negative attitude to President Johnson's call to "move from fantasy and propaganda to the realistic and constructive work of bringing peace to South-East Asia."

A NEW FACE AT THE TALKS

Le Duc Tho, one of Ho Chi Minh's closest associates joined the North Vietnamese delegation at the Paris peace talks the other week after a brief stopover in Moscow to confer with Russian officials. Le Duc Tho is pictured here (centre) with North Vietnamese delegate, Xuan Thuy (right) and the Soviet Ambassador, Valerian Zorine (left), on his arrival in Paris.

BANGKOK



metropolis of deities

BANGKOK—Krung Dhep or 'Metropolis of Deities' in Thai—has been changing so fast over the past few years that it has become almost an understatement to say so. Change, growth, expansion, development these words represent Bangkok's current vocabulary, its mood, its aspirations, its very sights and sounds.

All over this city, of two million people, on the newly-opened up outskirts as much as in the midtown areas, one is struck by the omnipresence of those most obvious signs of growth: tall glass and concrete structures, hotels or office blocks cocooned in spiderweb scaffoldings; pile drivers; concrete mixers; bulldozers—not to mention the bluejacketed labourers and artisans (women as well as men) who man the machines and swarm like busy ants over the city's numerous building sites; more houses, apartments (a novelty in the 1950's, now a common feature), hotels (a handful existed for foreign visitors as late as 1960, now over 100 with more still being built one of which is to have 23 floors and a revolving restaurant on top), factories, school-buildings, office blocks, government offices, police stations, petrol stations, hospitals, shopping centres, cultural centres, religious centres. This is the physical scene, and it reflects the increasing activity, the faster pace of life in all its social, economic, cultural and personal aspects. Yet in the midst of this exhilarating change traditional, Bangkok still flourishes.

This article features Bangkok, one of the major cities of South-East Asia, in our series on SEATO Capitals. As a base for many international organizations operating in this part of the world Bangkok has been playing an increasingly important role in regional development over the past few years.

The klongs (canals) flourish still and with them the traditional way of life of the river people who dwell along their banks, exemplifying an easygoing kind of liveliness which has always been one of the most appealing characteristics of the city. Although many klongs have been filled up to widen the roads so as to keep up with the ever-increasing traffic (at present nearly 100,000 private cars, 10,000 taxis, more than 3,000 buses), enough have remained, often providing the drivers of vehicles with a view of klong life, so close are they to the streets.

RIVER LIFE IN BANGKOK STILL FLOURISHES. HERE A BOATMAN POLES HIS CRAFT LOADED WITH SOFT DRINKS THROUGH A CROWDED RIVER 'THOROUGHFARE'

Rather than clash with the squarish multi-storied concrete-and-glass structures, Bangkok's 300 monasteries with their golden chedis, their spacious tree-shaded compounds, their sloping glittering roofs, seem to impart their own exotic gentleness and old-world charm to the other architectural style. The contrast is dramatic, not disharmonious. Indeed, more than ever before, Bangkok is looking like a deliberate meeting place of the old and the new, of East and West, of the time-honoured customs and the customs of the age of rising expectations.

Thus, at Bangkok airport, served by over 20 international airlines, the bustling crowds, more often than not, are mostly made up of non-passengers and one watches here the modern enactment of the vigorously preserved Thai custom of seeing friends and relatives off on trips and welcoming them back on their return;

Thus the National Theatre presents visiting ballet troupes and other shows from other cultures alternating with performances of Thai classical dancing;

Thus beauties dressed in the latest fashion join their palms together in the old graceful gesture of 'wai' to their elders and sprinkle them with the water of good fortune at the Song Kran (traditional new year) festival;

Thus one attends elaborate and colourful religious ceremonies at the opening of banks, assembly plants, international organizations, or institutes de-

voted to scientific and technological studies;

Thus Buddhist monks in their saffron robes continue to be one of the familiar sights of the city, and ordinations of men from all walks of life into the Sangkha — the Buddhist brotherhood — take place every year in one of the many annual festivals which have been observed in Thailand down through the centuries, an established part of the national scene long before Bangkok was founded as capital city of the Kingdom in 1782.

It was then that King Rama I—Phra Baht Somdej Phra Buddha Yod Fa as the Thais call him—transferred the capital from across the river Chao Phya to Bangkok, a small rural town on its eastern bank. It was also a time of change, of planning and building and moving ahead, for the Burmese invaders had been driven back and the country was now entering an era of sufficient peace and stability.

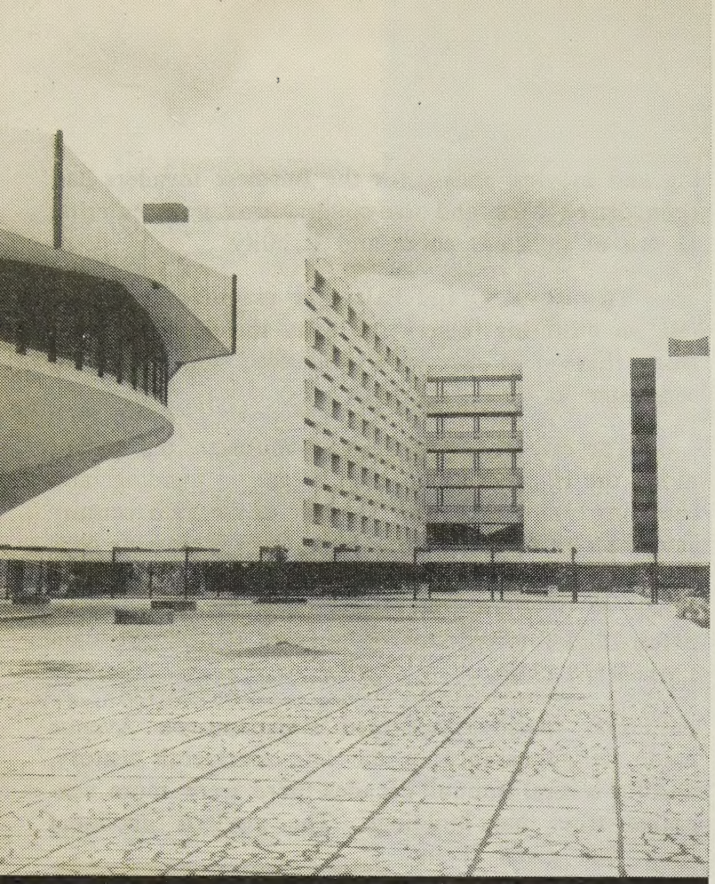
The Royal Grand Palace, a magnificent square mile of glittering towers and lofty throne halls, dates from these first days, to be added on, beautified, renovated as time went by.

The city grew up keeping close to the palace along the river at first, then began expanding and rambling on inland. The first half of the 19th century saw the city open its door to an ever-increasing contact with the outside world, culminating in the emergence of modern Bangkok under the long, prosperous and forward-looking reign of King Chulalongkorn (1868-1910).

The spacious tree-lined Rajadamnoen Avenue made its appearance in the late nineteenth century, and for several tranquil decades there were more venerable trees than buildings. The modern functional look was given it in the late thirties, to the delight of some and dismay of others.

A portion of Rajadamnoen is now lined with government offices, modified modern structures with traditional style roofs — including the five-

FLOATING FRUIT AND VEGETABLE "SHOPS" ARE A FAMILIAR SIGHT ON THE NETWORK OF KLONGS THAT BRANCH OFF FROM THE CHAO PHYA RIVER.



THE BLENDING OF THE OLD WITH THE NEW ACROSS BANGKOK'S CHECKERED SKYLINE IS WELL ILLUSTRATED HERE WITH THE PICTURE ABOVE SHOWING A VIEW OF THE NEW RAMATIPODE HOSPITAL AND LECTURE HALL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES AND THE ROOFTOP SCENE BELOW OF WAT RAJANADDA.

year old Ministry of National Development. At a corner stands Sala Santitham — Pavilion of Peace — a symbol of Bangkok's cosmopolitanism housing the far-flung and multifarious activities of the United Nation's ECAFE.

Other UN offices — FAO, UNICEF, UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) are located not far from here. Sri Ayudhya Road, where SEATO is located, is in the same general neighbourhood, itself having been transformed from a bumpy asphalt two-carriage drive with a klong on one side to a wide concrete six-lane thoroughfare only a few years ago.

Capital City, commercial centre, port, seat of administration for a centralized system of government, repository of the nation's historical and cultural heritage, Bangkok has been able in all these years to combine tradition with progress.

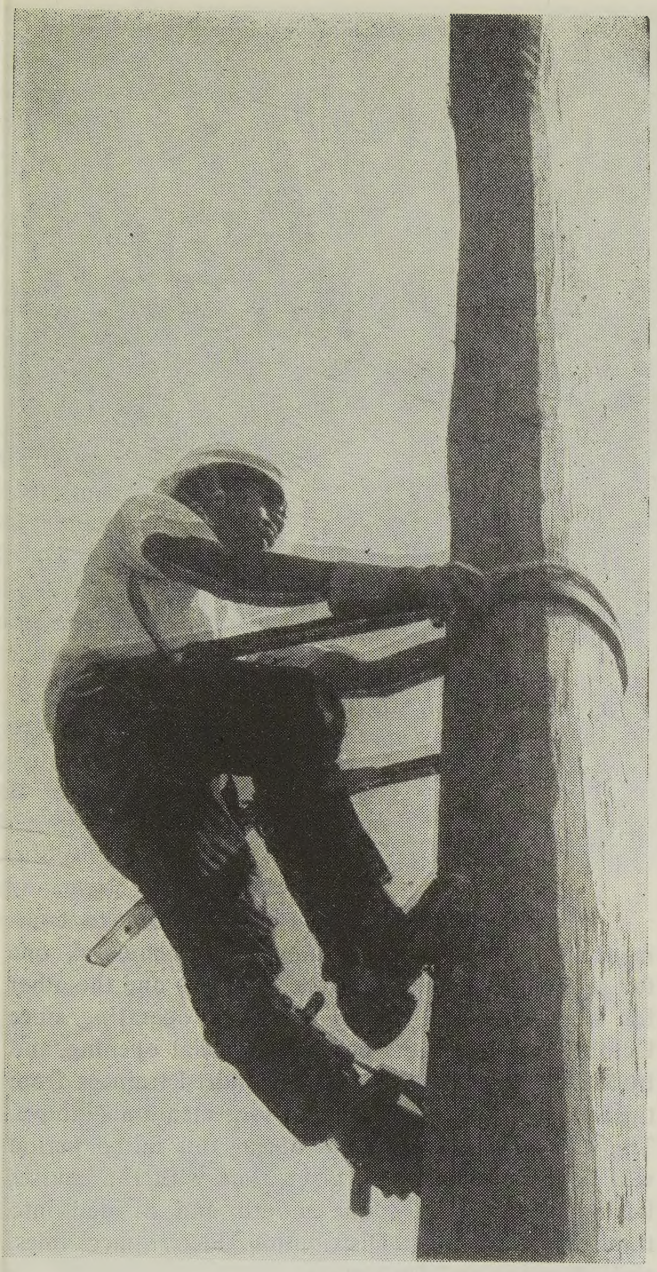
It is the Capital City of one of the fastest developing countries in South-East Asia, home of that most unique sport, kite-fighting, and the equally unique Thai boxing. It is a city of bright new lights and of homes with shrines to house their guardian spirits; a city of countless organized charities and inborn unorganized generosity.

Will it last?

Nevertheless, the rate of progress has been such that some observers cannot help but ask: Will it last, this traditional Bangkok which has been flourishing for nearly 200 years?

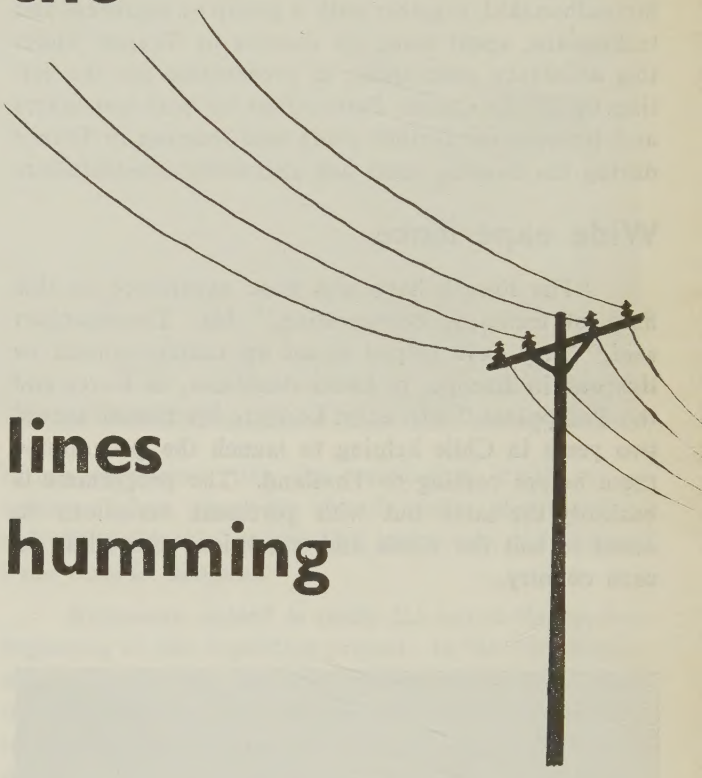
If the answer is yes, it will be because the tradition has been, and is still, a living one; and it is so precisely, or paradoxically, because part of that tradition has always been a love of and an openness to the challenge of change.

Also paradoxically, Bangkok [at the height of change has become more than ever conscious of its tradition and more determined to preserve it. Time was when its citizens took their arts and architecture, their songs and dances, their old customs and ceremonies, very much for granted, adopting whatever was new readily, whimsically, without much concern. But over the past few years an increasing awareness has crept into this carefree attitude and has been responsible for serious governmental and private efforts designed to prevent change from impinging dangerously upon tradition.



FRENCH-THAI PROJECT TRAINS ELECTRICIANS

...Keeping the lines humming



A training programme most likely to produce maximum benefit is of course one in which the trainees are assured of employment when their training is over, or already holding jobs whose nature forms the basis of that programme.

This is a point frequently emphasised by Mr. A. Saint Loubere Bie, French adviser to Thailand's first and only centre to be devoted exclusively to the training of electricians. He returned to it again and again as he showed us over the smart, well-equipped premises which are located in the vast compound of the Yanhee Electricity Authority in Nondhaburi Province, on the banks of the Chao Phya River only a short drive from Bangkok.

The Electrician Training Centre, jointly financed by the Thai and French Governments, draws its trainees from the five electricity authorities covering the whole of Thailand: Metropolitan, Yanhee, Rural, North-Eastern, and Lignite. "As a matter of fact," Mr. Saint Loubere Bie stressed, "the Centre has been created in response to the need of these authorities for more well-trained men. Thailand has been develop-

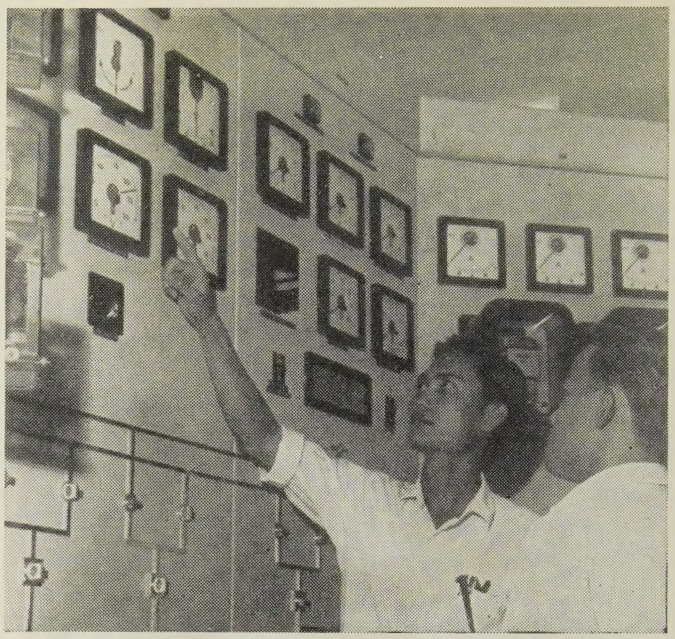
ing fast and the increasing demand for electricity and power, which at once reflects and contributes to this fast development, calls for a corresponding increase in the number of skilled electricians.

Formally inaugurated last December, the Centre is part of Thailand's National Energy Authority and has been set up with the co-operation of the French Government, represented by Electricite de France and Service de Co-operation Technique Francaise. French assistance is in the form of tools and equipment, experts, and training and study tours in France for members of the Thai staff.

The Director of the Centre, Mr. Thammachart Sirivadhanakul, together with a group of engineers and technicians, spent some six months in France under this assistance programme in preparation for the setting up of the Centre. Fellowships for both instructors and trainees for further study and training in France during the coming years are also under consideration.

Wide experience

"The French have had wide experience in this field of technical co-operation," Mr. Thammachart said. "They have helped to set up centres similar to this one in Europe, in Latin American, in Korea and the Philippines." Mr. Saint Loubere Bie himself served two years in Chile helping to launch the programme there before coming to Thailand. The programme is basically the same but with pertinent variations in detail to suit the needs and conditions prevailing in each country.



An instructor surrounded by trainees before a control panel. This is part of the training equipment contributed by France to the Thai-French project.

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Here in Thailand, it has been decided to commence with two levels of 'improvement courses', one for supervisors (technicians or foremen) and the other for workmen. The Centre has been operating since October, three months before its official opening, and by March this year had over a hundred trainees from the five electricity generating stations mentioned above. The number of men trained during this initial period was limited to 24 at any given time with the courses lasting approximately one month and divided into three specializations: Distribution, Electro-mechanics, and Metering and Protection.

Beginning last month (May) the full enrolment of trainees increased to 48; in addition to the short courses there is a year-long training programme for 24 technicians. Meanwhile, other expansions, already planned for, will bring the total up to 72.

●

Mr. A. Saint Loubere Bie, and Mr. Tammachart Sirivadhanakul, are pictured, left in front of the work panel showing the names and courses of all their trainees.

One of the trainees climbs a concrete telegraph pole under the watchful eye of his instructor. He is using specially designed grappling irons on his feet that clamp firmly to the post.

Along with this regular programme, the Centre aims to offer special training to meet specific requirements as far as its facilities will permit, for the emphasis is always to keep the programme realistic and flexible.

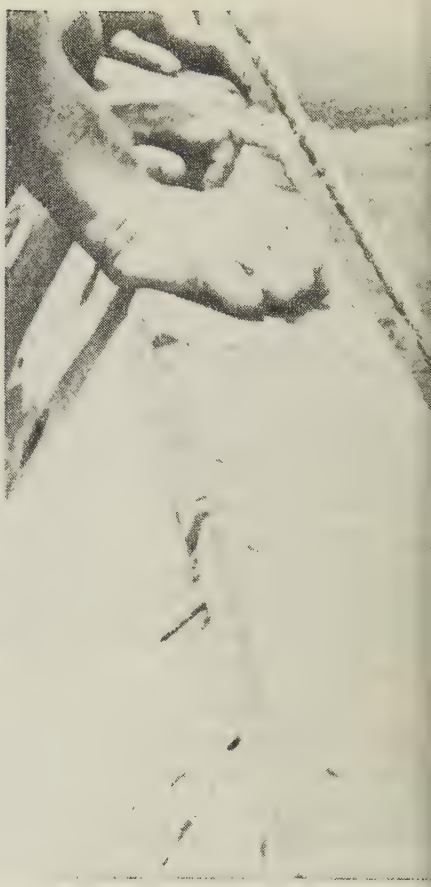
An example of this special arrangement is a two-month course for 60 inspectors from the Metropolitan Electricity Authority, organized at the request of the Authority and tailored to suit its requirements.

The Centre, at present, is housed in an extended row of one-storey buildings, modest-looking enough but the sort of layout which lends itself easily to future expansion, like the curriculum itself. As a matter of fact, plans are already under consideration to build residential quarters for instructors and trainees from outside Bangkok.

Expansion indeed is really the key to the modest beginning of this important project. In fact Mr. Thammachart and Mr. Bie are already envisaging other training centres, such as this one, being established in various regions of the country. Blueprints are already on the drawing board for a new complex of power stations and hydro-electric schemes to meet the ever increasing demands of an expanding nation's industrial enterprises, and such training schemes as the one at Nonburi are essential if there are going to be sufficient numbers of qualified technicians to keep the network of transmission lines criss-crossing Thailand's countryside humming with electrical energy.

Learning to bind cable sections together is an important part of the students' training. Here the instructor, centre, checks the work of one of the trainees.

TAMING THE MIGHTY MEKONG RIVER



THE Mekong River is the tenth or twelfth largest river in the world, 4,600 kilometres in length, draining in its lower basin an area larger than all of France and twice as large as Japan, inhabited by some 50,000,000 people, from Cambodia, Laos, South Viet-Nam and Thailand, and pouring annually more than 400,000,000 acre feet of water into the South China Sea.

Yet less than three per cent of the entire lower basin is irrigated, although vast portions of it could with great benefit be irrigated from the ample waters of the Mekong; no hydroelectric power is drawn from the River, and almost none from any of its tributaries, although the four riparian countries yearn for industrial development for which the tremendous hydroelectric potential of the river and its tributaries could provide a prime ingredient; floods rage unabated; the navigation potential is largely wasted. In order to harness these immense potential resources a Mekong Project was initiated.

The objective of the Mekong Project, in one capsule phrase, is to bring these unutilized resources into utilization for the comprehensive development of the whole area.

Numerous countries are contributing towards the many smaller projects which go to make up the main Mekong Project as a whole. Some are providing money; some teams of experts; others equipment; and still others are contributing all three.

One of the first necessities is to clear rocks and other obstructions in the river so that it can be made

Seen here on the Thai shore near the Keng Kabao rapids are Dr. C. Hart Schaaf, Executive Agent of the Mekong Committee (left); and J. Wooliatt, British team leader. In the background is a British helicopter being used in blasting operations.

A diver is pictured here surfacing after placing explosives beneath rocks on the river bed.

This is the story of one small, though important, operation recently undertaken by a U.K. team of demolition experts under the Colombo Plan as part of Britain's contribution to the vast Mekong River project being undertaken under the aegis of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East within the framework of the United Nations. The project aims to harness the turbulent, waters of one of Asia's largest rivers so that it can become navigable; provide irrigation for millions of acres of land; and produce much needed hydro-electric power for those countries through which it passes.

navigable. The first stage of this formidable task has fallen to the lot of a U.K. team of demolition experts.

The first experimental underwater rock blasting in the river began during the 1968 low-water stage on March 23 in rapids in the channel at Keng Kabao. This is upstream from Mukdahan, Thailand, and Savannakhet, Laos, and the blasting area is roughly midway in the river between the two countries.

The blasting is being done by engineers and divers provided by the United Kingdom Colombo Plan aid progamme for the Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin with equipment furnished by the United Kingdom, Laos, Thailand and the Committee. The British team of demolition experts made a reconnaissance of the channel during the 1967 low-water stage.

The development of transportation for the four Lower Mekong riparian countries is one of the many aims of the Mekong Committee, which operates within the framework of the United Nations and its Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

This involves a hydrographic survey, channel marking, improvement of the navigation channels and of craft and port facilities, in addition to the proposed mainstream dams, with ship locks and bypass canals, all of which eventually will make navigation possible throughout the Lower Mekong Basin. The locks and canals would raise dry-season river levels and submerge rapids.

The basic work of surveying and charting the bed of the river, with special emphasis on the hydrographic survey of difficult stretches, has been under way for several years.

FROM THIS... *Pictured below are Laotian officials with Dr. C.Hart Schaaf (in cap), Executive Agent of the Mekong Committee, and Clément Rombouts (in hat), Director of Navigation Improvement in the Mekong Secretariat, aboard the pontoon boat containing the drilling and blasting equipment prior to placing charges amongst underwater rocks.*

...TO THIS... *Members of the U.K. demolition team are seen below manoeuvring their craft in the turbulent currents of the Mekong River as they head slowly towards half-submerged rocks under which they will place charges for blasting.*

The present experimental underwater rock blasting is the first physical step toward changing the bed of the river in the process of such improvement. It will help to determine the difficulties and suggest ways of overcoming them in any actual channel-clearing project in the future.

John A. Pugh, United Kingdom permanent representative to ECAFE and the Mekong Committee, was present at Keng Kabao with representatives of the Laos and Thailand Governments and Dr. C. Hart Schaaf, Executive Agent, and officers of the Mekong Committee Secretariat to witness the first underwater blast on March, 23.

They watched divers go down to examine the likely spots for blasting and then to attach the explosive. They examined the equipment which is necessary for drilling holes in the rock for certain types of blasting. They studied the rapids and the currents and talked with the experts and the men who are doing the painstaking and hazardous work.

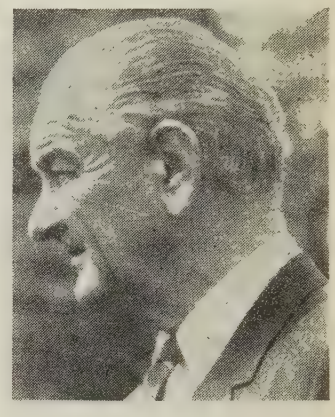
Mr. Pugh said the British Government had purchased certain equipment especially for the rock-blasting operation. This was actually in use and included two drilling rigs complete with trolleys, to give them mobility, and other ancillary equipment. The cost was about $3,000.

The British Government intends to give this equipment to the Mekong Committee because it seemed to have a significant future application.

The chief representative of Laos at the blasting was Issara Katay Sasorith, Director of his Government's Hydrographic and Navigation Service; and of Thailand, Thos Binyoying, acting for the Deputy Secretary-General of the National Energy Authority. (UNIS)

...TO THIS... *Pictured here is the final, and largest charge to be detonated at a point midway in the river between Laos and Thailand near the Keng Kabao rapids.*

THANOM AND JOHNSON AFFIRM THAI U. S. LINKS



THE climax of Prime Minister Thanom Kittikachorn's recent goodwill tour to foreign countries was his visit to the United States where he spent several days conferring with President Johnson and attending meetings with senior U.S. officials.

Following his second meeting with President Johnson at the White House on May 9, the two leaders issued a joint statement that stressed continued U.S.-Thai co-operation in South Viet-Nam and in South-East Asia.

Mr. Johnson reviewed with the Prime Minister the developments following his March 31 initiative on inviting peace talks, and both leaders expressed satisfaction that Paris had been chosen as the site for initial contacts.

Mr. Johnson reaffirmed the U.S. intention to "continue full consultations with the Royal Thai Government and its other allies concerning negotiating positions and developments" at each stage of the discussions.

The two leaders once again reaffirmed the conclusions of the seven-nation foreign ministers meeting in April, 1967.

They also pledged anew that the Manila communique would form the basis of the allied negotiating position. The joint statement said "the two leaders emphasized their determination that the South Vietnamese people should not be conquered by aggression and shall enjoy their inherent right to decide their own way of life and form of government." The full text of the joint communique follows:

"At the invitation of President Lyndon B. Johnson of the United States, Prime Minister Thanom Kittikachorn of the Kingdom of Thailand paid an official visit to Washington on May 8 and 9. This visit afforded the President and the Prime Minister and several of his senior cabinet colleagues an opportunity to exchange views on current developments in Thailand and on the situation in South-East Asia.

The Prime Minister described the dynamic economic expansion currently taking place in Thailand. He mentioned the major role played by private initiative and emphasized Thai interest in promoting foreign investment in his country. He also referred to the forthcoming promulgation of a new constitution by His Majesty the King.

The President and the Prime Minister discussed the externally-supported, Communist-directed subversion and insurgency in Thailand, especially in the Northern and North-Eastern regions.

In this connection, the Prime Minister described his Government's programmes for providing security to the rural population and improving their social and economic conditions. He also noted that while welcoming foreign assistance in the form of training, equipment and advice, the Royal Thai Government regarded defeating the insurgency as a Thai responsibility to be carried out by its own forces.

The President made clear the intention of the United States to continue its assistance to Thailand to help provide the Royal Thai Government with the means of

meeting illegal Communist activities. He stressed American support in the field of accelerated rural development, especially with regard to roads and water resources.

The President re-emphasized the determination of the United States to stand by its treaty commitments to Thailand and its other allies in Asia. He recalled with pleasure the three visits he has made to Thailand. He noted the pledge that he had given at the time of his visit to Bangkok in 1966 that the commitment of the United States was not of a particular political party or administration but of the people of the United States, and that "America keeps its commitments."

The President and the Prime Minister reviewed in detail the situation in South Viet-Nam. They reaffirmed their determination to assist the Republic of Viet-Nam in defending itself against aggression in order to assure its people the right to determine their own future free from external interference and terrorism. They also stressed the importance of this defence to the security of other nations in the region. The President and the Prime Minister reviewed the military situation, including the recent initiatives of the Government of South Viet-Nam and actions by the United States and its allies to increase their forces there.

Thailand's contribution

The Prime Minister noted that additional Thai forces, the first increments of a Thai division, will deploy to South Viet-Nam shortly to join Thai troops already fighting with South Vietnamese, American, and other allied units. The President paid tribute to the contribution Thailand is making to our common defence interests by making base facilities available for use by the United States. He also praised the hospitality extended American servicemen by the Thai people.

The President and the Prime Minister agreed that the attainment of a just and durable peace required both a strong military posture and the pursuit of a diplomatic solution. They agreed to continue their efforts on both these fronts until such a peace is secured.

The President reviewed in detail the developments that had followed his initiative of March 31 to halt bombing in the major part of North Viet-Nam and to invite talks. The President and the Prime Minister expressed satisfaction that Paris had now been agreed as the site for talks, and the President reviewed the position that American representatives would take in the opening stages of these talks.

The President reaffirmed that at each stage the U.S. Government would continue its full consultations with Royal Thai Government and its other allies concerning negotiating positions and developments. The President and the Prime Minister also reaffirmed the position stated in the seven-nation foreign ministers meeting of April 1967 — that a settlement in Viet-Nam, to be enduring, must respect the wishes and aspirations of the Vietnamese people; that the Republic of Viet-Nam should be a full participant in any negotiations designed to bring about a settlement of the conflict; and that the allied nations which have helped to defend the Republic of Viet-Nam should participate in any settlement of the conflict.

Expressing the hope that the Paris conversations would result in serious discussions on the substance of peace in Viet-Nam, the President and the Prime Minister reaffirmed that the Manila communique of 1966 would form the basis of the allied position. The two leaders emphasized their determination that the South Vietnamese people shall not be conquered by aggression and shall enjoy their inherent right to decide their own way of life and form of government. The President and the Prime Minister also noted the importance of ensuring full compliance with the provisions of the 1962 Geneva accords on Laos. In discussing the situation which would follow a cessation of hostilities in Viet-Nam, the President and the Prime Minister agreed that close and continuous consultation on economic and security questions would be required to assure a smooth transition from war to peace.

New era of progress

The President and the Prime Minister further reviewed the favourable trends in regional cooperation in South-East Asia and Thailand's leading role in furthering these developments. Particular note was taken of the accomplishments in the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) and the Mekong Committee, to whose studies and projects they attach considerable importance, and of the evolution of several new South-East Asian organizations which raise hope for a new era of constructive common endeavour for a lasting peace and sustained progress of the area. Referring to his speech at Johns Hopkins in April 1965, the President cited our support for South-East Asian regional development as clear evidence of the United States continuing concern for and commitment to the nations of this region.

In particular, the Prime Minister reported to the President discussions held in New York with a U.S. team headed by Mr. Eugene R. Black concerning the favourable outlook for the Pa Mong Dam on the mainstream of the Mekong River. The President and the Prime Minister agreed on the importance of this project and the desirability of accelerating present project feasibility studies under the Mekong Committee.

RUSK *ON PEACE*

Peace in South-East Asia, must embrace the whole region, not just Viet-Nam, said the U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. Dean Rusk at the University of Georgia on May 4.

He said he hoped a negotiated settlement of the Viet-Nam conflict can convince North Viet-Nam its future is in peaceful co-operation in developing the entire South-East Asian region, "rather than in a costly and wasteful effort to overcome the South by force." He added:

"Let me remind you that peace in South-East Asia is not a matter of Viet-Nam alone. Laos is entitled to full compliance by all parties to the 1962 Accords on Laos. This means the removal of all foreign troops, the cessation of infiltration of North Vietnamese forces through Laotian territory, the recognition of the authority of the Laotian Government throughout the country, and access to all parts of the country by the International Control Commission.

No interference

"Surely Thailand," said Mr. Rusk, "is entitled to live at peace without the infiltration of arms and agents trained outside its own borders. Surely Cambodia and Burma are entitled to live at peace without the same kind of interference."

Mr. Rusk said the United States believes all nations have the responsibility to settle their problems by peaceful means and "the record in Viet-Nam is filled with efforts on our side to take the conflict from the battlefield to the conference table."

Mr. Rusk's speech marked the annual observance of Law Day in the United States. Law, he said, is the basis of the world order. "It forms the basis for collective action by which nations guard the peace.

"It is in the context of collective security as a fundamental element of world law that the policy of this country regarding Viet-Nam should be understood," he said. "American assistance to South Viet-Nam is rooted in our belief that only by co-operation in the community of nations to resist and suppress aggression can peace be established..."

There were a number of specific steps that could be taken through law to heighten the prospects for a stable world, he said. "The most important of these is the continued and diligent pursuit of new steps in disarmament."

It was the community of nations which can bring peace through law to the world, he said, but each nation must make an effort.

"The United States will always do its part, but this country will not and cannot be the world's policeman," he said.

RUSK *ON AID*

If progress in economic and social development in Asia, Africa and Latin America is reversed, the consequences for world peace and prosperity "could be disastrous," said U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. Dean Rusk, in prepared testimony before the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee last month. He urged Congress to authorize $2,500 million for economic aid and $420 million for military grant aid to foreign nations in the fiscal year beginning July 1, as requested by the Johnson Administration.

"We cannot find safety or well-being apart from the rest of the world," Mr. Rusk told the committee.

"Some say we should postpone or eliminate foreign aid," he noted, "because of the cost of our efforts to help defend freedom in South-East Asia." But he warned: "The freedom and progress of hundreds of millions of other Asians, of 250 million people in Latin America and 260 million people in Africa also engage our concern and are directly related to our own security and well-being."

Discussing East Asia development, Mr. Rusk said he was heartened by the responses of the countries of that area "to the formidable challenges they face. American aid is critical to survival and development of independent East Asian nations," he said.

Mr. Rusk characterized Thailand as a "steadfast and loyal ally," remarking that the Bangkok Government had countered the appeal of Communist insurgency in North East Thailand with its programme of improved social services and strengthened rural security.

HARRIMAN HITS BACK

The United States Ambassador at large, Mr. W. Averell Harriman, who heads the American delegation to the current Paris peace talks on Viet-Nam, felt "obliged" to answer charges made by the leader of the North Vietnamese delegation, Mr. Xuan Thuy, contained in "a lengthy and distorted rendition of history" about the Viet-Nam war which comprised virtually the whole of Thuy's opening statement. The following are extracts from Mr. Harriman's reply in answer to the charges made by Mr. Thuy.

"In our last meeting we agreed to study each other's opening statements. I have examined your remarks with great care.

I regret that you felt it necessary to begin these talks with a lengthy and distorted rendition of history. We are here to resolve our present differences, and to build a peace in Viet-Nam. Therefore, to rehash old accusations, to rekindle old controversies—and, above all, to rewrite history—is an unnecessary and unfortunate way to begin these conversations.

Nevertheless, since you raised the issue, I must state that we reject your interpretation of history. I intend today to discuss areas in your statement with which we are in agreement, and outline further actions which we believe are vital to peace in Viet-Nam. But before I do, I am obliged to make some observations on the events of the last fourteen years and on the legality of our presence in Viet-Nam.

Contrary to the false and grim picture you have painted, the years from 1955 to 1960 were a time of growth and progress in Sout Viet-Nam. Per capita food output increased more than 20 per cent—while it was dropping 10 per cent in the North. Textile production increased dramatically—more than 20 per cent in 1950 alone. Sugar production went up 100 per cent.

The refugees who had fled from Communist rule in the North were resettled peacefully in the South, in one of the major refugee movements of our time.

The elementary school population increased four times during those years.

And in 1960, per capita income in the South had increased to about $110 a person, more than 50 per cent higher than in the North.

In short, there was a steady improvement in the lives of the people of South Viet-Nam. They were outdoing the North in peaceful competition. Recognizing clearly what was happening, the leaders in Hanoi decided in the late 1950s to turn to violence and terror to destroy this progress, to create chaos, and thereby take control.

Events in the North in these years were in sharp contrast to the progress in the South. About 900,000

people fled to the South during the 300 days allowed by the Geneva accords. Far more would have gone if North Viet-Nam, in violation of the Geneva accords, had not stopped them.

A brutal farm programme resulted in the execution of between 50,000 and 100,000 North Vietnamese, including many who had served in the war against the French. So widespread was the terror that even General Giap had to admit in a speech published in Nhan Dan on October 31, 1956 that:

> "*We...executed too many honest people; terror became far too widespread... worse still, torture came to be regarded as a normal practice during party organization.*"

As a result of this oppression, in November 1956 a spontaneous peasant rebellion broke out in President Ho Chi Minh's home province and had to be put down brutally by military force.

Faced with the growing prosperity and progress in the South, North Viet-Nam turned increasingly to illegal methods to gain control of the South, violating several key provisions of the 1954 accords. In violation of the 1954 accords, subversive cadres were left behind. Many of those who re-grouped North were trained in guerrilla warfare and then sent back as terror squads and political agitators.

Violations

These actions were violations of Article 19 which forbade either North or South Viet-Nam to resume "hostilities or to further an aggressive policy." In June 1962, in a special report to the co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference on Indo-China, the legal Committee of the International Control Commission concluded:

> "*There is evidence to show that armed and unarmed personnel, arms, munitions and other supplies have been sent from the zone in the North to the zone in the South with the object of supporting, organizing, and carrying out hostile activities, including armed attacks directed against the armed forces and administration of the zone in the South. These acts are in violation of Articles 10, 19, 24 and 27 of the agreement on the cessation of hostilities in Viet-Nam.*
>
> "*The committee...has come to the further conclusion that there is evidence to show that the PAVN (People's Army of Viet-Nam) has allowed the zone in the North to be used for inciting, encouraging and supporting hostile activities of the zone in the South aimed at the overthrow of the administration in the South. The use of the zone in the North for such activities is in violation of Articles 19, 24 and 27 of the agreement of cessation of hostilities in Viet-Nam.*"

The introduction of forces and weapons from the North into South Viet-Nam, the armed attacks upon the Government and people of South Viet-Nam, the violation of the territory of South Viet-Nam, and the coercion and interference with the lives of its people —all these constitute a clear and irrefutable violation of the letter and intent of the Geneva accords of 1954. The fundamental intent of these accords was to bring an end to the hostilities, establish a demarcation line and a demilitarized zone, accomplish a regrouping of forces and movements of civilians into the zones to the North and South of that line, and provide against the use of the two zones for the resumption of hostilities or to further an aggressive policy. Reunification through peaceful processes and free choice was envisaged.

The way ahead

The path toward restoration of the 1954 accords is clear. It is to abandon the resort to force, to re-establish the demilitarized zone, and systematically to withdraw all forces other than those of South Viet-Nam from its territory, allowing the issue of reunification to be settled peacefully by the people in North Viet-Nam and the people in South Viet-Nam.

Of the many violations of the accords, one stands out in its callousness and disregard for the innocent men, women and children who wish to live their lives in peace in the South—that is the relentless and ruthless acts of terror by North Viet-Nam and by its agents in the South against the civilian population. At this very moment, terror attacks directed against the innocent civilians of Saigon are taking place.

A clear warning

From the end of the Geneva Conference until today three American Presidents have repeatedly made clear that we would have to take action in support of the people of the South if North Viet-Nam violated the accords. On the day that the accords were signed, President Eisenhower said that "any renewal of Communist aggression would be viewed by us as a matter of grave concern." Accordingly, we have responded to the request of the Government of the Republic of

Viet-Nam for assistance as North Viet-Nam increased its aggression.

The introduction of regular units of the North Vietnamese Army preceded the introduction of U.S. combat forces into South Viet-Nam and the sustained bombing of the North.

As regards the situation in Laos, the responsibility for its deterioration falls clearly on the shoulders of Hanoi. The North Vietnamese did not observe their obligations under the 1962 agreements and it seems clear that they never intended to.

While Soviet and American military personnel presented themselves to the ICC and withdrew as required, only a handful of North Vietnamese forces did the same. The rest cynically, flagrantly, and illegally stayed in Laos and violated the peace and territorial integrity of that small, neutral neighbour. Since 1962, their numbers have been increased and, in further violation of the 1962 agreements, they have continuously used the territory of Laos as a corridor to send men and material into South Viet-Nam for the purpose of their aggression there.

Allegations rejected

This is why we are in South Viet-Nam. We emphatically reject your attempts to misuse history by reversing the role of the aggressor and his victim. Clearly North Viet-Nam is the aggressor and the people of South Viet-Nam the victim. We reject your charges that we have no legal basis for our presence in Viet-Nam. The moral issue is the disastrous suffering that your terror and other acts have caused to the people of South Viet-Nam.

Let us now look to the future and seek a basis for peace. I am struck by some similarities in our respective positions. Let me identify for you some of the areas in which it seems reasonable to hope to find agreement. I hope there may be others but I wish to speak of these now.

FIRST — we both speak of an independent, democratic, peaceful and prosperous South Viet-Nam. You also speak of a neutral South Viet-Nam. We have no problem with this if that is South Viet-Nam's wish.

SECOND — we both speak of peace on the basis of respect of the Geneva Accords of 1954, to which we add the 1962 Agreement on Laos.

THIRD — we both speak of letting the internal affairs of South Viet-Nam be settled by the South Vietnamese themselves — which we would clarify by adding, "without outside interference or coercion."

FOURTH — we both speak of the reunification of Viet-Nam by peaceful means. In our view this must not only be peaceful but also through the free choice of the people of South Viet-Nam and of North Viet-Nam.

FIFTH — we both speak of the need for strict respect of the military provisions of the 1954 Geneva Accords.

Now I would like to elaborate further on some specific and urgent steps which are vital to peace, and on which it should be possible to agree.

Certainly one of the prime steps toward the strict observance of the military provision of the 1954 Geneva Accords should be to restore to the demilitarized zone its original and proper status. We agree on the legal existence of that zone and its prescribed boundaries. We propose that we agree now on making it function the way it should. Are you prepared to join in achieving this ? The prompt restoration of the demilitarized zone as a buffer is an essential step.

In your statement on Monday you referred to the 1962 agreements on Laos. We propose that we agree now that all parties should comply meticulously with the 1962 agreements on Laos. Let us call upon the two co-Chairmen and the three countries which are members of the International Control Commission to make prompt arrangements to assure that those accords are respected. We will be glad to have your prompt answer to this proposal.

No coercion

You also referred to Cambodia. We propose that all armed elements from outside Cambodia should fully respect the territorial neutrality and integrity of Cambodia, and that both our countries give support publicly to the independence and neutrality of Cambodia. Let us join in requesting the International Control Commission to strengthen its functions in this regard. We will be glad to have your prompt answer to this proposal.

Finally, let me emphasize that the people of South Viet-Nam must be free from coercion. Nowhere is this more important than in Saigon where vicious attacks are being directed against a civilian population. The continuation of such attacks on civilians in Saigon and elsewhere does not contribute to the atmosphere for successful talks....

TRIBUTE

BY VARGAS

"The former Council Representative for Australia, Ambassador A. H. Loomes, was never a man to administer only from behind a desk. He took a keen and personal interest in the various aid projects in Thailand, both bilateral and multilateral, and was invariably to be seen out and about visiting them.

Whether discussing problems here, difficulties there; seeking advice, or giving it; administration officials, technicians and trainees alike responded to his unassuming friendliness wherever he went.

Devotion

Mr. Loomes knew and understood the nature, the magnitude and the serious implications of the unique problems of South-East Asia, and he addressed very much of his time and effort to helping solve them.

He supported SEATO and its many aims with almost personal devotion, and thus left an indelible imprint upon the security and stability of the Treaty Area."

MR. LOOMES SUMS UP

'My 5 years in Thailand'

THE former Australian Ambassador to Thailand for five years, Mr. A.H. Loomes, who left Thailand only a few weeks ago, had much to say about "the very valuable function" SEATO served in an eve-of-departure interview with the 'Bangkok World'.

During his interview Ambassador Loomes said: "SEATO has I think performed a very valuable function. It has brought Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, the United States, and the Philippines together in the defence of Viet-Nam. We all have troops fighting there together and we continue in the SEATO forum to keep closely in touch with each other."

Mr. Loomes said that a close watch was also being kept on developments in Laos which appeared to be deteriorating, while concern was naturally being felt over insurgency in parts of Thailand. "We do exchange views on these matters almost continuously," he added. "So far as Australia is concerned, we take our SEATO obligations seriously and of course will continue to do so in co-operation with our other allies."

Mr. Loomes said he had seen many changes during the past five years he had served in Thailand. He had been most impressed with the economic and social progress made throughout the country. Concerning Australian aid in Thailand, he said that this mostly took the form of co-operative ventures in which the two countries acted as partners. A most important aspect was the "team work basis" in the provision of aid.

Over the years he said Australia had contributed more than A $ 15.7 million to many projects in Thailand. Within the context of SEATO he said that Australia was the only member of the Organization which had established a specific aid programme for less developed SEATO members. Under this programme Thailand had received aid worth A $ 4.8 million since it began in 1956. He listed three main objectives of Australia's aid programme:

1. To increase the country's resources of technical manpower;
2. To foster projects aimed at raising economic, social and health standards;
3. To develop the country's communications by helping to build roads and providing vehicles, as well as improving radio and telecommunications.

Concerning future Australian aid to Thailand Mr. Loomes said that an agreement had already been made to establish a motor mechanics training centre at Paholyothin Road under SEATO. The centre will train 120 mechanics each year and will also instruct mechanics in the techniques of repairing earth moving equipment and combat vehicles. "In general", Mr. Loomes said, "aid will continue on the same level as in the past."

His successor

AUSTRALIA's new Ambassador to Thailand, Mr. D.W. McNicol arrived in Bangkok on June 9.

Mr. McNicol has had a wide-ranging diplomatic career including considerable experience in Asian countries.

His first posting was to Tokyo after joining the Department of External Affairs in 1946 following war service with the Royal Australian Air Force. Between 1955 and 1957 he was Australian Minister to Laos, Cambodia and Viet-Nam.

Mr. McNicol was Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan between 1962 and 1965 and, before receiving his present appointment, was Australian High Commissioner to New Zealand. (AIS)

Hasluck visits SEATO

WITH Australia featuring so prominently in the affairs and activities of SEATO, the Secretary-General, Lieutenant-General Jesus M. Vargas, and other officials of the Organization had much to discuss when Mr. Paul Hasluck, the Australian External Affairs Minister, paid a courtesy visit to SEATO Headquarters on June 12.

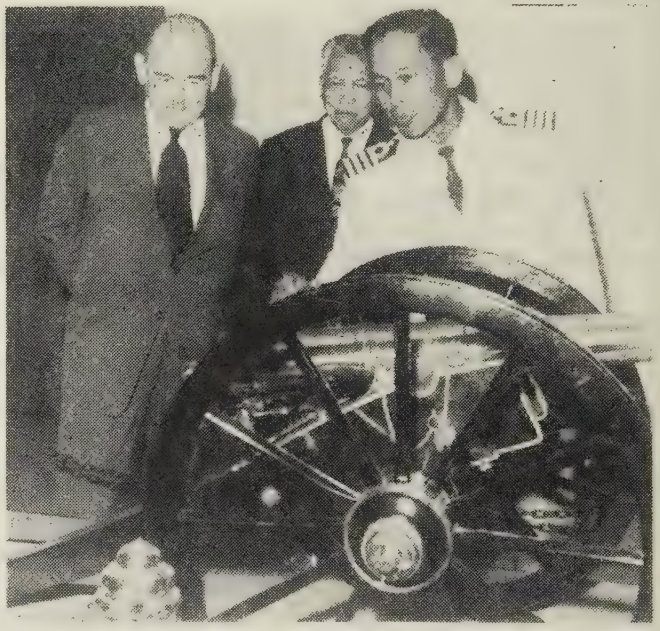
After touring the new Headquarters building, Mr. Hasluck, who was accompanied by the new Australian Ambassador, Mr. D.W. McNicol, and the Australian Secretary of External Affairs, Sir James Plimsoll, joined General Vargas, the Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. David A. Wraight and Captain Chob Sirodom, the Deputy Chief, SEATO Military Planning Office, for discussions on the role of SEATO and about Asian affairs in general.

Following their talks a mutually agreed statement was issued in which Mr. Hasluck affirmed Australia's confidence in SEATO as a defence structure against overt Communist aggression in South-East Asia and as a means of bringing economic aid to its Asian member nations thus thwarting covert Communist subversion.

Mr. Hasluck reiterated what Australia had so frequently demonstrated: That it held its commitment under SEATO to be a firm obligation and that it would continue to honour it as such.

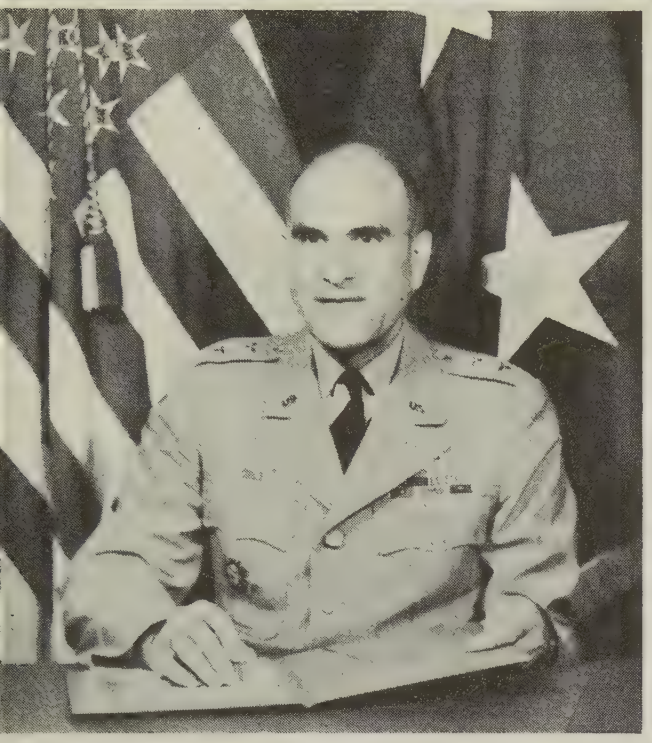
While at SEATO Mr. Hasluck also met Australian members of the international staff.

GUEST OF THE MONTH



Mr. Hasluck is Pictured above (left) examining the 'Cannon of Great Auspices' in the foyer of the Military Planning Office. With him are Lieut. Gen. Jesus M. Vargas, (centre) and the Deputy Chief, Military Planning Office, Capt. Chob Sirodom (right).

U.S. GENERAL TO HEAD SEATO MILITARY PLANNING OFFICE



Maj. Gen. Autrey J. Maroun

The present Chief of SEATO Military Planning Office, Major General Abhichart Dhiradhamrong of Thailand, will complete his two-year assignment at SEATO this month. He will be replaced by Major General Autrey J. Maroun, of the US Army, who becomes the seventh Chief of the Military Planning Office.

General Abhichart returns to the Supreme Command Headquarters in Bangkok, to assume a new assignment there.

Major General Maroun is a 1935 graduate of the US Military Academy, West Point, New York.

He is a veteran of World War II and the Korean War. General Maroun has held a number of important appointments, including Chief of Staff, Berlin Command, US Army Europe, during 1956-1957 and Commanding General, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) from 1964 to 1966. Before being appointed to SEATO he was Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence for Manpower and Reserve Affairs in Washington, D.C.

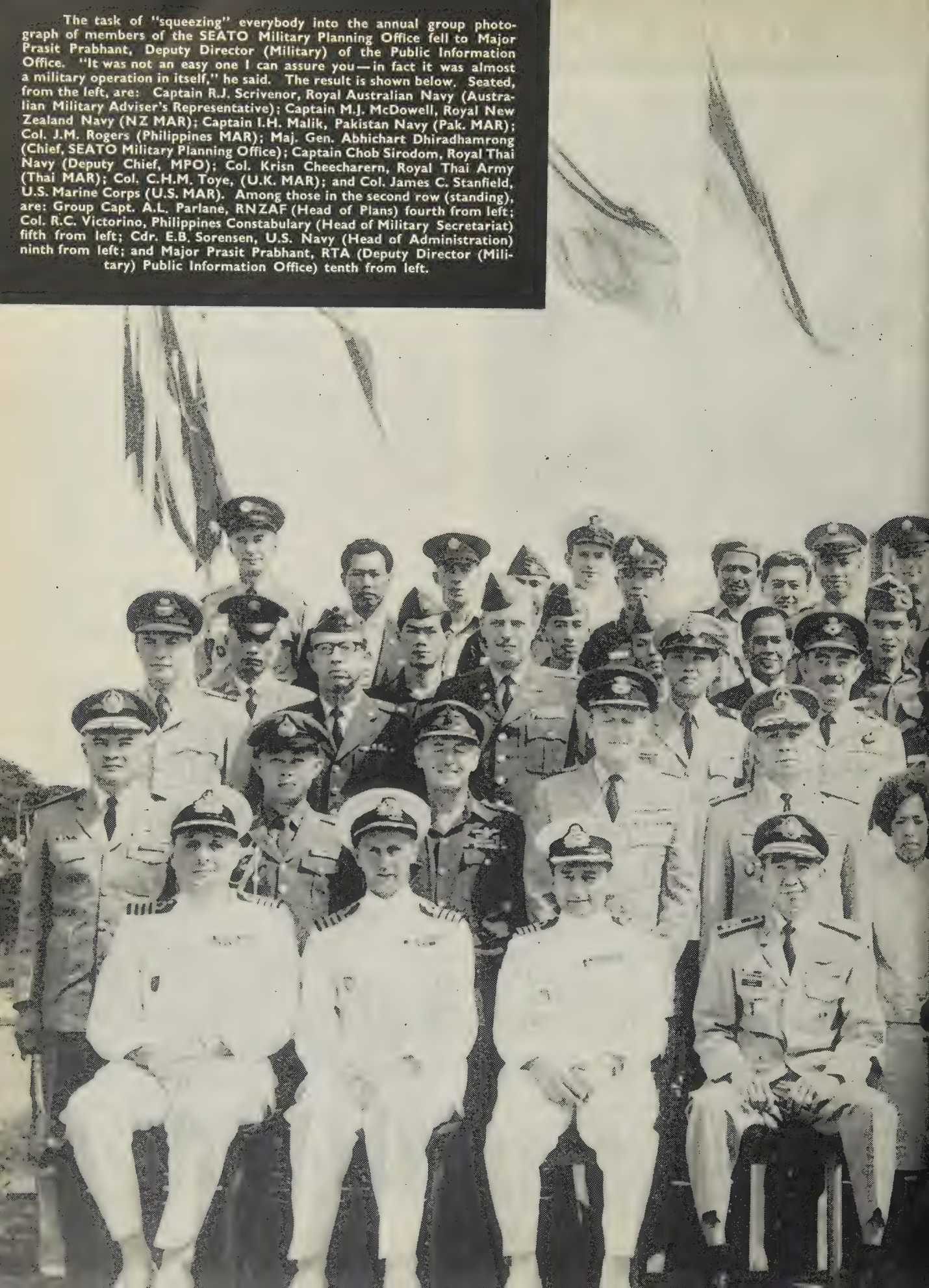
General Abhichart is a graduate of the Royal Thai Military Academy. He completed various courses at the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia, and later graduated from the Command and General Staff College at Fort Wm. McKinley in the Philippines He served in Korea in 1950.

In 1956 he graduated from the Command and General Staff College, Bangkok. This was followed by an assignment in the SEATO Affairs Division of the Directorate of Operations, Royal Thai Army, and in 1960 he was appointed Representative of the Thai Military Adviser at SEATO Headquarters. Following his three year term at the SEATO Military Planning Office, he became Chief of Policy and Plans Division, Directorate of Joint Operations, Supreme Command Headquarters.

General Abhichart graduated from the Thai Armed Forces Staff College in 1964, and for a long time was involved in planning for military operations and SEATO Military exercises.

Maj. Gen. Abhichart Dhiradhamrong

The task of "squeezing" everybody into the annual group photograph of members of the SEATO Military Planning Office fell to Major Prasit Prabhant, Deputy Director (Military) of the Public Information Office. "It was not an easy one I can assure you—in fact it was almost a military operation in itself," he said. The result is shown below. Seated, from the left, are: Captain R.J. Scrivenor, Royal Australian Navy (Australian Military Adviser's Representative); Captain M.J. McDowell, Royal New Zealand Navy (NZ MAR); Captain I.H. Malik, Pakistan Navy (Pak. MAR); Col. J.M. Rogers (Philippines MAR); Maj. Gen. Abhichart Dhiradhamrong (Chief, SEATO Military Planning Office); Captain Chob Sirodom, Royal Thai Navy (Deputy Chief, MPO); Col. Krisn Cheecharern, Royal Thai Army (Thai MAR); Col. C.H.M. Toye, (U.K. MAR); and Col. James C. Stanfield, U.S. Marine Corps (U.S. MAR). Among those in the second row (standing), are: Group Capt. A.L. Parlane, RNZAF (Head of Plans) fourth from left; Col. R.C. Victorino, Philippines Constabulary (Head of Military Secretariat) fifth from left; Cdr. E.B. Sorensen, U.S. Navy (Head of Administration) ninth from left; and Major Prasit Prabhant, RTA (Deputy Director (Military) Public Information Office) tenth from left.



IN FOCUS

S. Korean officers visit SEATO

During a recent study tour of South-East Asia a party of 18 students from the South Korean National Defence College led by Lt. Gen. Kim Ik Yul, the Commandant, visited SEATO Headquarters in Bangkok.

They were met by Lt. Gen. Jesus M. Vargas, SEATO Secretary-General, and Maj. Gen. Abhichart Dhiradhamrong, Chief, SEATO Military Planning Office. Matters of mutual interest, particularly concerning the Communist threats to the region were discussed during the meeting.

Lt. Gen. Kim is pictured above signing the visitors' book, while (from left) Lt. Gen. Vargas, Maj Gen. Hyon Suk Ju and Maj. Gen. Abhichart look on.

Col. Ingle briefs successor

Captain M.J. McDowell of the Royal New Zealand Navy has succeeded Colonel N.R. Ingle as New Zealand Military Adviser's Representative in the SEATO Military Planning Office.

Before assuming his new appointment, Capt. McDowell was in command of the Navy Shore Establishment, HMNZS Philomel.

Col. Ingle and his family left Bangkok after completion of his two-year appointment as New Zealand Military Adviser's Representative to the Military Planning Office. Col. Ingle served in SEATO once before from April 1962 to May 1964 as a member of the planning staff. In the photo, Col. Ingle (left), is shown briefing Capt. McDowell.

Merit award for SEATO plans officer

Another officer who returned to New Zealand recently on completion of his tour of duty with SEATO was Lieut-Col. R.J. Moor, MBE, Leader for Plans Division, SEATO Military Planning Office. He has been succeeded by Lieut-Col. Ralph Porter, also from the New Zealand Army (pictured above right).

In the picture above Major General Abhichart Dhiradhamrong (right), Chief, SEATO Military Planning Office, presents a certificate of appreciation and a SEATO plaque to Col. Moor, in recognition of his services to SEATO.

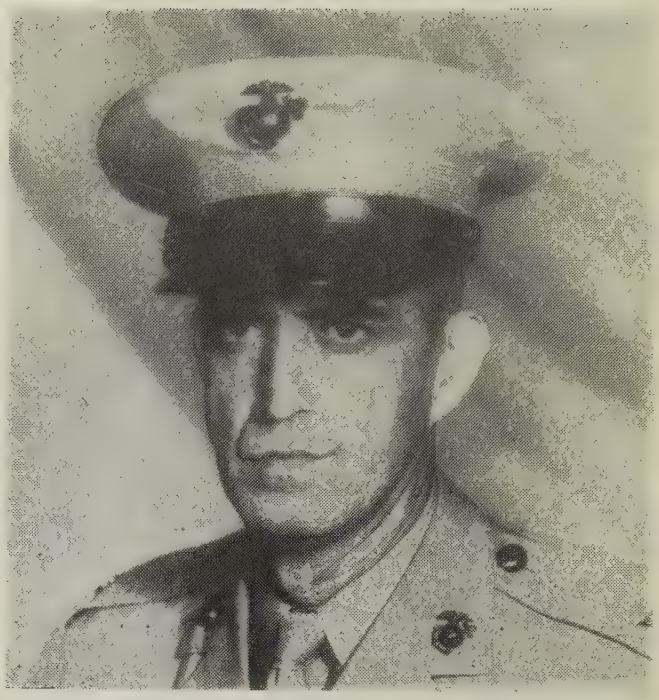
NEW U.S. MILITARY ADVISER

Colonel James C. Stanfield of the United States Marine Corps. (pictured right), has assumed his new post as SEATO Military Adviser's Representative for the US, succeeding Col. Willis J. Adams, of the U.S. Army.

Col. Stanfield entered the service in 1943. He received a Master of Science degrees in International Affairs from George Washington University, Washington, D.C., in 1965. He also attended a number of military courses including one at Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, during 1960-61.

The colonel is a veteran of World War II campaigns in the Pacific. He has seen service both in Korea and Viet-Nam. His last position before assuming his present assignment was Head, Logistics Plans Division, Headquarters, US Military Assistance Command, Viet-Nam.

Col. Stanfield is married with three children. His only son is now a sergeant, also in the United States Marine Corps.



New post for Australian plans officer

Captain R.C. Savage of the Royal Australian Navy is seen above receiving a certificate of appreciation from Major General Abhichart Dhiradhamrong, Chief of SEATO Military Planning Office, after the completion of his two-year tour of duty as Head of Planning. His successor (left) is Group Captain A L. Parlane of the Royal New Zealand Air Force

Captain Savage takes up a new assignment as Director of Naval Reserves, Naval Office, Canberra.

The new Head of planning, Group Captain Parlane, served previously as a planner in the M.P.O. from 1961 to 1964.

Special award for SEATO sergeant

Major General Abhichart Dhiradhamrong, Chief, SEATO Military Planning Office, recently presented a special Award to Sergeant Major Colbert B. Gales, of the United States Army, for his outstanding services as Chief Clerk of the SEATO Military Planning Office during the past four years. This was the first award of its kind to be presented to a non-commissioned officer.

Sergeant Gales has served most of the time in the Pacific theatre. He is a multi-linguist—he can speak French, Chinese, Korean, Indonesian, Thailand, of course, English.

In the picture below General Abhichart (right) presents the SEATO plaque to Sergeant Gales. At left is Colonel R.C. Victorino, of the Philippines Constabulary, Head of Military Secretariat.

MORE EXPERTS TO JOIN SEATO AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH PROJECT

Mr. D. Rhind (right) inspects an experimental plot of rice at Kasetsart University, Bangkok, with a Ministry of Agriculture expert.

FOUR more experts contributed by the United Kingdom are to assist in implementing SEATO's recently launched Agricultural Research Project.

These experts will operate in close co-operation with Mr. D. Rhind, the Project Co-ordinator, also povided as part of the United Kingdom's contribution under SEATO. The experts, who are scheduled to arrive in South-East Asia in September, are: Dr. G.R. Scott, senior lecturer at the Royal School of Veterinary Studies, Edinburgh; Mr. H.H. Rogers, senior plant breeder from the Plant Breeding Institute, Cambridge; Mr. J. K. Coulter, adviser on tropical soils in the Directorate of Overseas Surveys, Surbiton, Surrey; and Mr. C. Parker who is an expert in tropical weed control at the Weed Research Organization of the Agricultural Research Council, Oxford.

Report findings

These four experts will be advising on research in their respective fields in the Asian countries concerned with the project — namely Pakistan, Thailand and the Philippines — and will ultimately report their findings and proposals to Mr. Rhind who will incorporate their observations in his final report to SEATO.

Meanwhile, back in Bangkok from Dacca for a brief visit before going on to the Philippines, Mr. Rhind reported that he had completed his primary surveys in East Pakistan during his two and a half months' stay there. With his survey almost completed in Thailand he is now doing similar research in the Philippines where he has been for the past few weeks.

Most impressed

What of Mr. Rhind's findings in East Pakistan? "In the first place", he said, "I was most impressed by the industry and good cultivation of Pakistan farmers and by their willingness to adopt improved practices." At the same time, Mr. Rhind said,

agricultural research in East Pakistan was in great need of improvement both in respect of numbers of well-trained research workers and in facilities for research. "Improvements in agricultural production have been considerable," he added, "particularly of rice, and it is clear that it is possible to raise rice yields almost everywhere by increased inputs in the form of fertilizers, better seeds, insecticides and so on. The International Rice Research Institute's new hybrids have been giving remarkably high yields under the right conditions and since these varieties are acceptable to Pakistan consumers, they clearly have a great future in the country."

Mr. Rhind said that agricultural research there did not seem to have received enough support since independence, and because East Pakistan at that time had only one small research Station, present improvements are based almost exclusively on research results obtained elsewhere. "Unless research is greatly improved", he said, "a time will soon come when there are no new results to hand on to farmers"

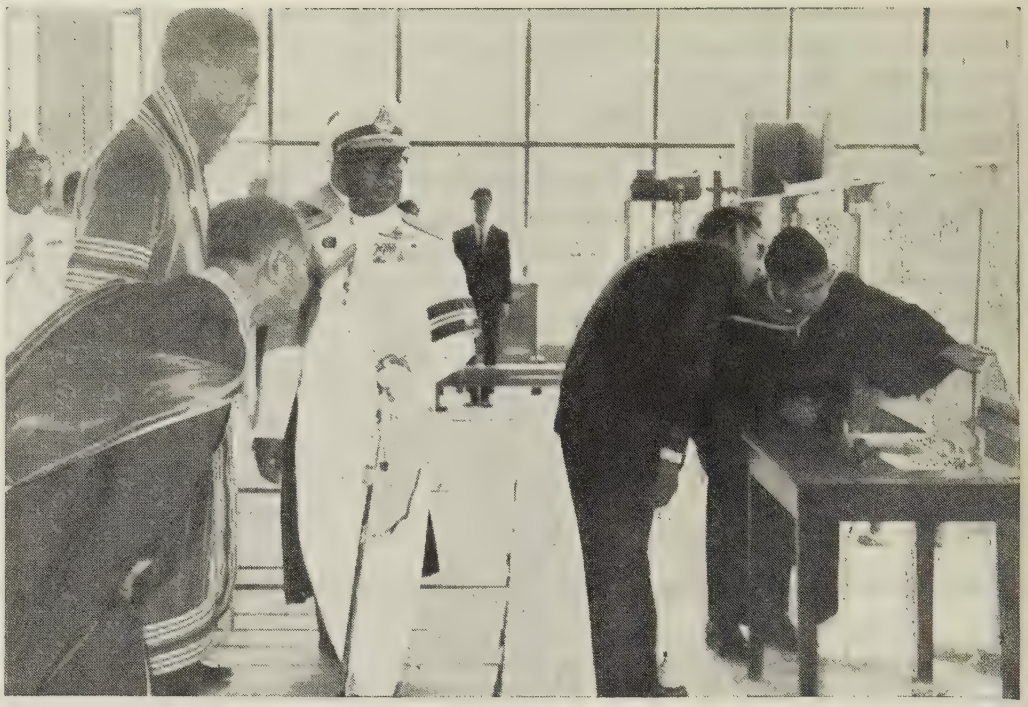
Referring to jute, East Pakistan's main export crop, Mr. Rhind said that this had been receiving a fair amount of research attention, and likewise tea; but other crops have been to some extent neglected such as dried peas and beans, and olive seeds. Animal husbandry and fisheries would also benefit from more intensive research, Mr. Rhind said.

Degree day at A. I. T.—A Royal occasion

...Tailor made for Asians

ON May 4, in a ceremony presided over by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, 51 students representing Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Taiwan and Viet-Nam, received their Master of Engineering degrees at the Asian Institute of Technology, the only regional institution of advanced engineering in this part of the world.

This was the first graduating class of the Institute, and the eighth since it started in 1959 as the SEATO Graduate School of Engineering, bringing the total number of graduates to 226 The SEATO School formally emerged as the Asian Institute of Technology a few months ago.



Dr. Anat Arbhabhirama of the Department of Hydraulic Engineering explaining to His Majesty a wave-channel experiment during a tour of the laboratories after the graduation ceremony. Watching at far left are Dr. Puey Ungphakorn, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Dr. Milton E. Bender, President of the Institute.

In his speech to the gathering, His Majesty stressed the importance of adapting technological methods to suit the problems and conditions of different regions. He believed that the Asian Institute of Technology, whose aim is to produce more advanced engineers especially trained to cope with prevailing conditions in Asia, is doing the very thing that is needed.

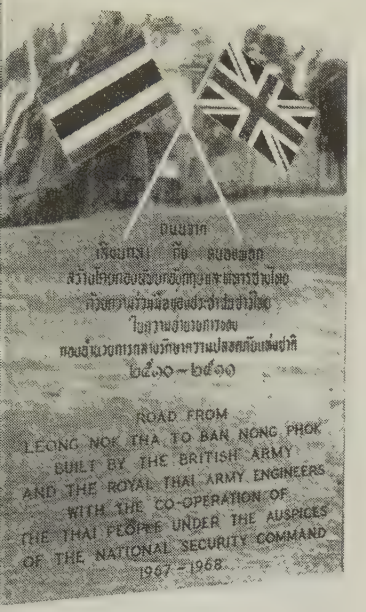
Dr. Milton E. Bender, President of the Institute, also dwelt on the regional emphasis in his report to His Majesty. "We at the Asian Institute of Technology," he said, "do not seek to reproduce here a duplicate of a Western institution. Our objective is to foster the growth of an institution which will best serve the technological requirements of the peoples of Asia."

The problem of the loss of engineers from the developing countries, popularly referred to as the "brain drain," was mentioned by Dr. Puey Ungphakorn, Governor of the Bank of Thailand and Chairman of the Institute's Board of Trustees. He pointed out that the Institute, situated within the region, will serve to lessen this loss by circumventing "the necessity of the countries of the region for sending their candidates for post-graduate engineering education to Western countries."

"For those who subsequently go to Western institutions for more advanced study," Dr. Puey said, "it may be expected that the greater majority of these individuals, after two years of post-graduate study at the Master of Engineering level, together with a concerted attempt at the Institute to develop an awareness of the problems and challenges of the South-East Asian region, will combine to serve as an impetus to return to their Asian homelands."

At present, the Institute offers five major areas in engineering study: Hydraulics, public health, soils, structures, and transportation.

Shown here receiving her Master of Engineering degree from His Majesty is Miss Chuanpis Phongphaiboon of Thailand. She specializes in public health engineering.


ROAD FROM
LEONG NOK THA TO BAN NONG PHOK
BUILT BY THE BRITISH ARMY
AND THE ROYAL THAI ARMY ENGINEERS
WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF
THE THAI PEOPLE UNDER THE AUSPICES
OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COMMAND
1967 - 1968

Another link is forged in North-East highway network

A mile a minute road...

AT a formal ceremony recently Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasapya, Thailand's Chief of Staff, Supreme Command, declared officially open a new 26 mile long road in North-East Thailand which has been built by British Royal Engineers of "Force Crown." The opening ceremony was also attended by the British Ambassador, Sir Neil Pritchard, and other military and civil dignitaries from Thailand and Britain.

In his speech at the dedication ceremony Air Chief Marshal Dawee referred to the new road as a permanent testimony of the close and friendly relations between Britain and Thailand.

He added: "The successful completion of road building such as this is vital to Thailand's continued progress. We have seen already how these new all-weather roads open new horizons for those of our people who are isolated from the general progress our country is making.

An audience of curious villagers looks on as engineers working on the road refill a water tank hauled by a tractor.

"We have seen how roads help to increase the income for our rural population so that they can export their products to wider markets. We have seen how they can use their increased income to improve the health and education of their children and to obtain better tools for their work.

A better life

"We know that these same things will occur here along this road that the 'Crown Force' has built for us. Progress breeds progress, and this road is certain to promote a better life for the thousands of people it serves".

The British Ambassador, Sir Neil Pritchard, also referred to the successful completion of the operations, saying that in a little over a year the original target for the road has been reached and indeed exceeded by over one third of its length.

Medical centre

"In addition," the Ambassador added, "a number of other civil action projects have been carried out—the sinking of wells, construction of feeder roads etc, and the provision of a medical centre which has treated each month thousands of Thai patients from the neighbouring villages."

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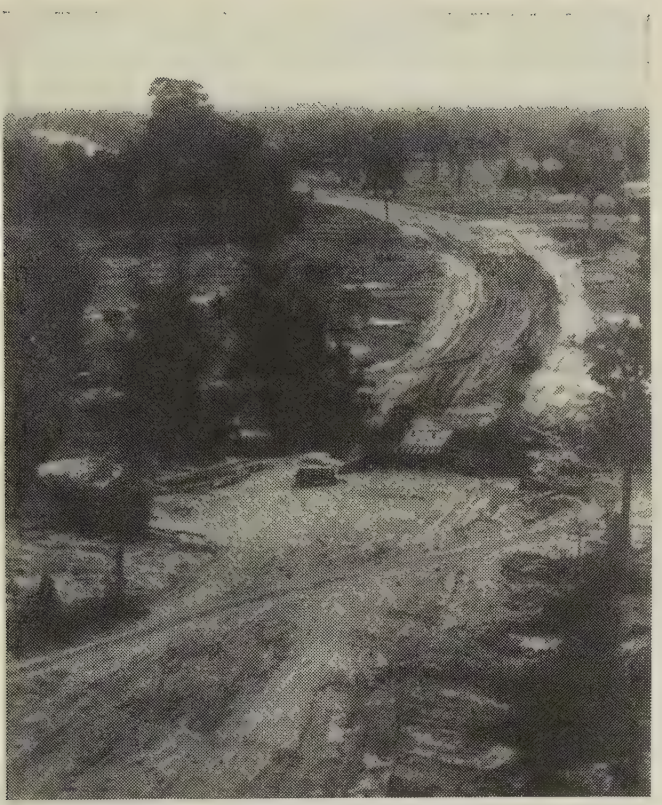
The completion of the road marks the end of a five years stay in Thailand for these British Army units, who were first engaged in the construction of a 5,000 ft. airfield at Leong Nok Tha.

The newly completed road itself runs from Leong Nok Tha in Ubol Province to Ban Nong Phok in Roi-et Province and provides an important new lateral



This picture shows a section of the road during the early stages of construction with one of many small bridges being built over a stream in the foreground.

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highway in the North Eastern road network, that creates an almost direct route for all-weather traffic from Mukdahan to Roi-et.

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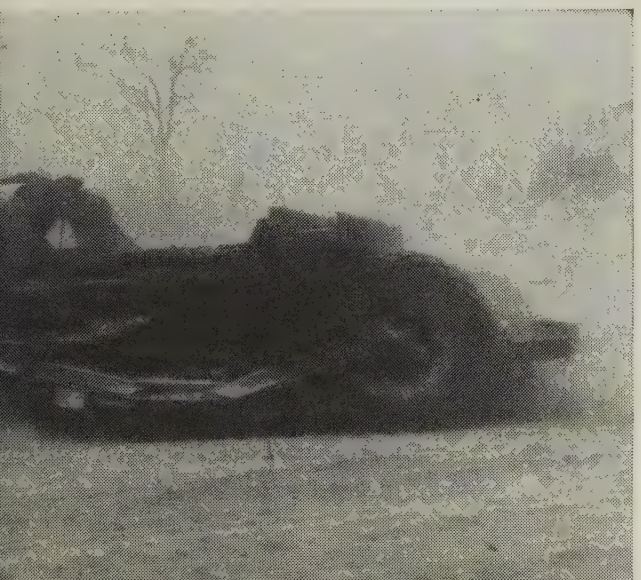
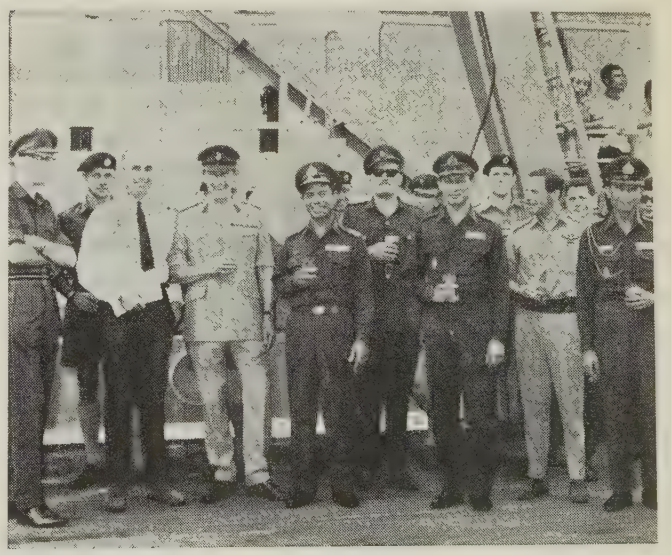
This road grader, enveloped in a cloud of dust, negotiates a corner on the way to one of the advance construction sites.



FAREWELL PARTY FOR ENGINEERS

Among those who attended the opening of the new 39kms. road was the Secretary-General of SEATO, Lieut. Gen. Jesus M. Vargas. He is seen in the picture above at a reception held after the opening ceremony with the British Ambassador, Sir Neil Prichard, (centre) and, next to him, Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasapya, Chief of Staff, Supreme Command.

Shortly After the completion of the road there was a farewell send-off at Klong Toey for senior officers of the Squadron, including Major P.R.T. Driscoll, the Squadron Commander. It was attended by Major General Chaveng Youngcharoen, representing the National Security Command and other Thai army officers. Col. Driscoll is pictured below in civilian clothes (third from left).



HERE AND THERE

with

SEATO SCHOLARS

With the ratifying in Manila last year of the University Equivalences Convention the SEATO scholarship programme is gaining in popularity, despite a number of basic problems that still have to be overcome.

Although only 12 scholarships are offered annually at present under the programme—four to each of the developing member nations of Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand—many more students than in the past are now applying.

● BANGKOK:

The past two months have seen many comings and goings of Pakistanis, Filipinos and Thais as they pass through Bangkok either on their way to commence degree courses in subjects of their choice or else returning home with degrees already safely in their pockets.

Among them for instance was Mr. J.C. Bernardo of the Philippines who stopped over in Bangkok on his way home, having completed three and a half years at the West Pakistan Agricultural University, Lyallpur on a SEATO post-graduate scholarship. He was awarded his Ph.D. in Animal Husbandry. He is in fact a double SEATO scholarship winner, having previously been granted a post scholarship to study for his master's degree at Kasetsart University in Bangkok in 1962.

His subsequent scholarship to Pakistan was granted on the strength of his academic achievements—he specialises in Animal Nutrition—at Kasetsart. And speaking of Kasetsart, the picture on this page shows other SEATO scholars studying rice strains on one of the University's experimental plots of land. On the right is Dr. Sorasith Vacharotayan, lecturer in Soils Science at Kasetsart University and a SEATO fellow recently returned from the International Rice Institute in the Philippines where he has spent four months as part of his research project on the chemis-

ry and soil fertility of paddy soils. Pictured with him (centre) is Mr. Robustion J. Estrada and Miss Milagros B. Andama of the Philippines, both SEATO postgraduate scholars studying at Kasetsart University for their master's degrees in Agriculture.

Another SEATO scholar recently returned from the University of the Philippines with a master's degree in Public Administration is Mr. Prayoon Prompan. Mr. Prayoon, formerly worked as a deputy district officer in South Thailand. He has now been assigned to the technical division, Department of Local Administration of the Ministry of Interior.

Congratulations....from SEATO Secretary-General, Lt. Gen. Jesus M. Vargas, to Mr. Prayoon Prompan who returned recently from the University of the Philippines with a master's degree in Public Administration.

● PAKISTAN:

Over to Pakistan where two Filipino scholars who enrolled at the University of Karachi are well on their way to acheiving their goals.

Lossiete A Oracion, a major in the Armed Forces of the Philippines and an associate professor at the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio City before receiving the scholarship, is working for a doctorate in history. He is writing his dissertation entitled, "Constitution-Making in Pakistan" which he expects to complete sometime this year.

On his way back to the Philippines with a Ph. D. in Animal Husbandry from the West Pakistan Agricultural University at Lyallpur, SEATO Scholar J.C. Bernardo called on SEATO Secretary-General Jesus M. Vargas (right) and Mr. Alain Crozet, SEATO Cultural officer.

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In gathering materials for his paper, Oracion pored over hundreds of volumes and countless documents, and used the facilities of five libraries in Karachi.

Ricardo S. Domingo, Jr., a University of the Philippines B.A. graduate, expects to obtain his M.A. degree in economics in July 1968. During his first year at Karachi University (1966) he read a paper at an economics seminar sponsored by the University's economic society entitled, "The Role of Industrialization in Pakistan's Capital Formation." The paper earned him a first prize.

He has also submitted a paper, "Strikes — Their Development and Necessity" to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Pakistan for publication.

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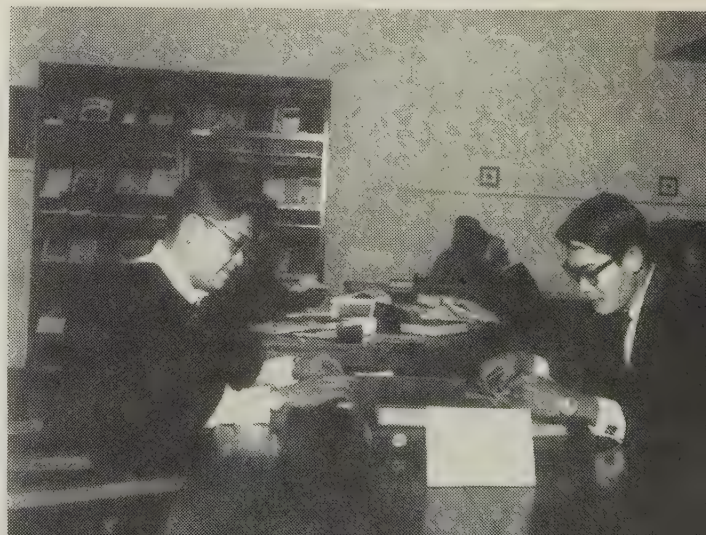
SEATO scholars Ricardo S. Domingo (right) and Lossiete A. Oracion pictured in the reading room of the University of Karachi library.



At the University of the Philippines he was president of the Geographic Society and represented the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences on the University Student Council.

● THE PHILIPPINES

And Finally from the Philippines comes This report by *Linda Chacon-Baisa* on the activities of SEATO Scholars and research fellows:

In 1965 a young Pakistani SEATO scholar by the name of Kanwar Abdul Haseeb invented a labour-saving device that instantly raised eyebrows in the Philippine pharmaceutical industry. His machine, which cost no more than US$1,000 to build, drastically reduced the time for coating pharmaceutical pills from 22 hours to half an hour.

Even now a Filipino lady scientist, Dr. Aurora Salazar, is preparing a report about her experiments conducted via a SEATO grant in Brisbane, Australia. Her findings will bring to the fore a fact not so well known by Filipino farmers: that rice yields may be considerably reduced by the incorrect use of insecticides.

One can cite a seemingly endless list of useful findings made by SEATO scholars in many fields of study because for many years now the South-East Asia Treaty Organization has been sending out scholars regularly either to pursue post-graduate studies or to undertake serious research work in various countries on subjects vital to the economic, social and cultural advancement of the Asian region.

In the Philippines, scores of scholars of various nationalities have come and gone since 1959 under the SEATO Cultural Programme. The SEATO Cultural Programme provides funds regularly for research fellowships, post-graduate scholarships and undergraduate scholarships.

The bulk of the post-graduate scholars from Thailand and Pakistan coming to the Philippines go to the University of the Philippines College of Agriculture (UPCA) in Los Banos, Laguna. There, on sprawling hilly terrain within the shadow of legendary Mt. Makiling and dotted with greenhouses, small experimental farms, academic buildings, and faculty and student housing facilities, the scholars pursue their studies, each one with a specific practical problem to solve.

Except for one Thai, who is working for a master of science degree in Animal Husbandry, the SEATO scholars during the 1968-69 school term are all Ph.D. candidates from Pakistan.

SEATO Scholar Ricardo S. Domingo (right) discussing a theory on economics with Dr. Ahsan Rashid, Head of the Department of Economics, University of Karachi, West Pakistan.

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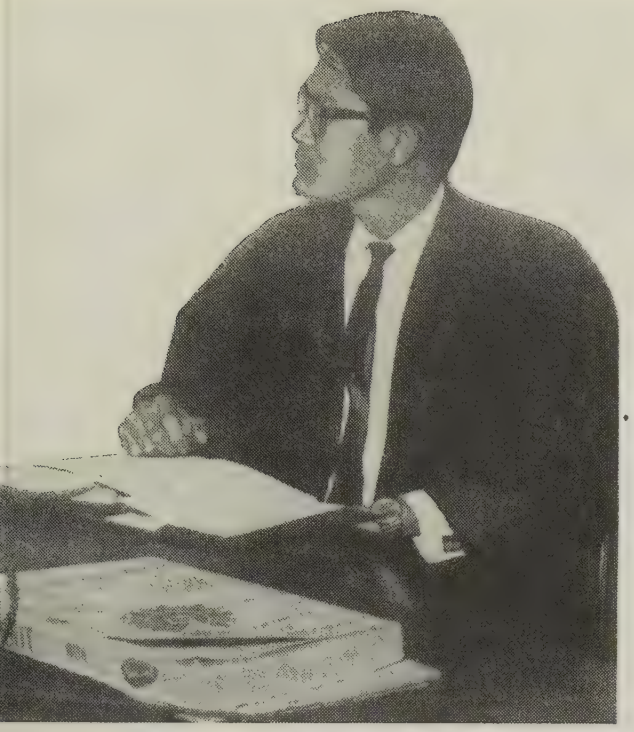
There is M.M. Khan from West Pakistan, who brought his attractive wife and two children to enjoy life in the Philippines with him.

Soil studies

Khan's concern is soil management in elevated areas. He wants to know what trees or plants can best be grown at what elevation to make possible the systematic planting of forest areas.

Khan's experiments, aimed at a Ph.D. in soils, calls for frequent scaling of nearby Mt. Makiling. He has so far drawn some definite conclusions up there on the relationship between topography and vegetation.

From East Pakistan comes M.A. Gaffer with a project so simple one can overlook its basic importance. Aiming for a Ph.D. in agronomy, his subject matter is about beans and his objectives are twofold: to increase the yield per hectare and to extract more oil from the crop.



There is no disputing the significance of Gaffer's esearch. Beans, which can be grown in almost any ard as vegetable, are one of the cheapest sources of rotein. Besides, it belongs to that variety of plants hat enrich the soil instead of rendering it unproduc- ive.

Mr. M. A. H. Mondal of East Pakistan, also a h.D. candidate in Agronomy, is concerned with the igh cost of chemicals used in the clarification of ugar. He has spent three years trying to establish is theory that the clarification process would be much asier and cheaper if the soil on which the sugar cane s planted is treated with phosphated fertilizer.

Another grantee from East Pakistan, H. Ahmed is doing research work also involving sugar cane. He is studying the physiological characteristics of an organism that is responsible for decreasing the sucrose content of the cane. He says this is a disease that is prevalent in the Philippines as well as in Pakistan. Ahmed is working for a Ph.D. degree in Plant Pathology.

Mr. M.M. Rahman, a Ph.D. candidate in Plant Genetics, is engaged in absorbing experiments trying to produce as many varieties of rice as possible through a process called mutation breeding. This way varieties that are resistant to pests and which can generate the biggest yield, can be created.

The lone Thai SEATO scholar in Los Banos, Surachai Chakriyarat, is experimenting on the artificial insemination of water buffaloes. He feels rather strongly that a deliberate effort should be made to increase and improve the breed in places like the Philippines and Thailand, which still import the bulk of their dairy needs.

Surachai says that aside from the usefulness of the buffalo as a working animal, buffalo milk is better than cow milk. Surachai expects to finish his master of science degree in Animal Husbandry in one more year.

Once again, indisputably, SEATO is realizing its value not only as an instrument of peace but as a vehicle for progress.

The varied activities of these SEATO-sponsored scholars shows that the Organization, as well as being on instrument of peace in the region, is very definitely a vehicle for progress and development in many branches of service, education, agriculture and technology.

The author (extreme ight) is shown interview- ng the SEATO Post- raduate scholars at the Jniversity of the Philip- ines College of Agricul- ure at Los Banos. Seated rom left are Surachai Chakriyat, M.M. Khan, M.A.H. Mondal, M.A. Gaffer, and M.Z. Hussain. Standing are M.M. Rah- nan and H. Ahmed.

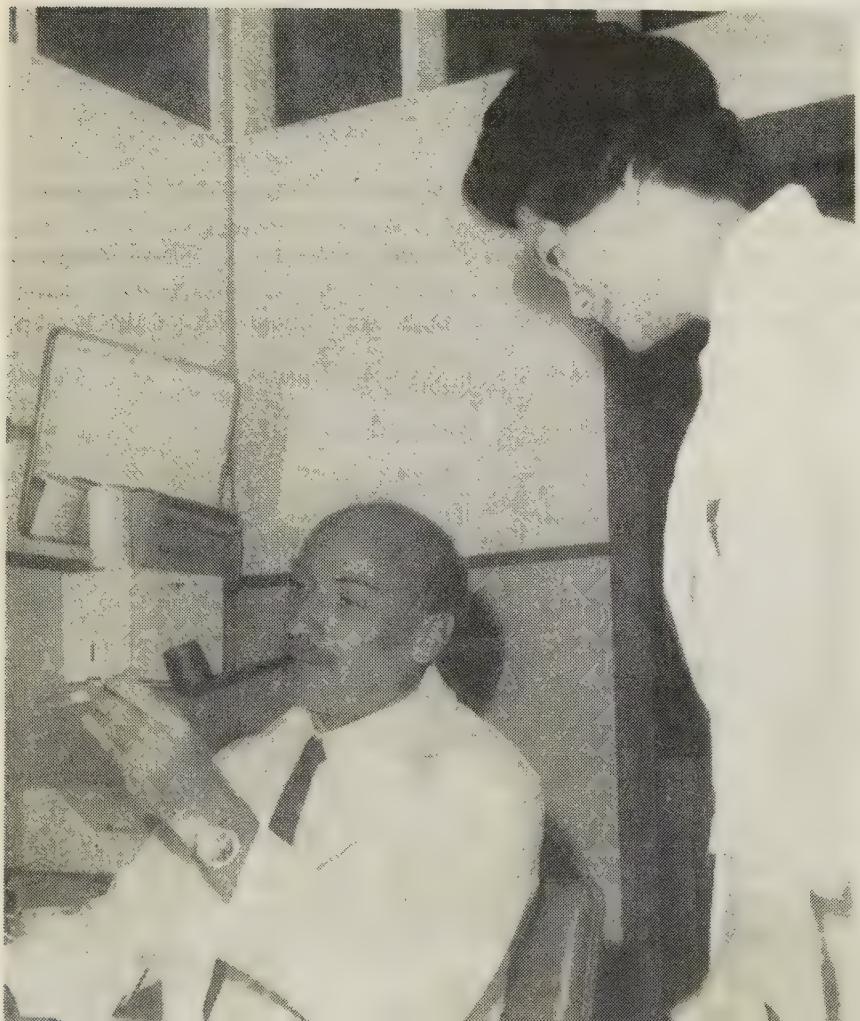
SEATO MEDICAL LAB SAYS GOODBYE TO TWO TOP SCIENTISTS

The time has come, the scientist said,
To talk of many things:
Of vectors, blood and vibrios
And viruses with 'wings'—
And why mosquitoes breed so fast—
And whether cells have stings.

(with apologies to Lewis Carroll)

TWO prominent medical scientists left the SEATO Medical Research Laboratory recently, one to return to the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington as Chief of the Department of Virus Diseases, and the other to take up the chair of Professor of Tropical Medicine at the University of Hawaii School of Medicine.

They are Lt. Col. Philip Russell, Chief of the SEATO Medical Research Laboratory and Head of the Department of Virology, and Dr. Robert Desowitz, Chief of the Department of Parasitology.



Col. Russell has been with the SEATO Medical Laboratory for three years. He first joined the Walter Reed Army Institute in 1959 and was subsequently attached for three years to the University of Maryland to study internal medicine. He spent about 14 months of this time at the Pakistan Medical Research Centre in Lahore which is operated by the University of Maryland.

After studying infectious diseases there he returned to Walter Reed Institute and in 1965 was posted to the SEATO Medical Laboratory in Bangkok. During his stay here Col. Russell said that considerable strides have been made in the study of haemorrhagic fever

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Dr. Desowitz, who has recently taken up his new post in Hawaii, is pictured here examining a sample of serum with Dr. K. Pavanand, a Thai research assistant at the laboratory.

Col. Russell is seen above making adjustments to a "Column Fractionator", an instrument used to separate different types of serum antibodies.

nd upon the ecology of Japanese encephalitis, a irus disease which affects the central nervous system. The ecology of this disease", he said, "has been oorly understood in South-East Asia and I think we ave done quite a lot here to clarify various aspects f encephalitis."

nsect vectors

Col. Russell said that important advances have lso been made by the laboratory over the past few ears in the knowledge of insect vectors in virus iseases.

Dr. Desowitz is an authority on parasitology and ie author of more than 75 scientific medical papers. graduate of the University of London School of ropical Medicine with a Ph.D. and a D.Sc.in Paraitology, he formerly spent nine years in Nigeria orking on research into sleeping sickness. Before oining the SEATO Medical Research Laboratory in eptember 1965, he was Professor of Parasitology for ve years at the University of Singapore.

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Much of Dr. Desowitz's work at the laboratory has been concerned with investigating mechanisms of known malaria which actually cause the disease with a view to obtaining more rational methods of treating the infection. "We are beginning to find the answer to a number of problems, but there is still a long way to go," he said.

Lt. Col. Russell will be replaced by Lt. Col. Thomas Smith, also an internist and virologist from the Walter Reed Army Institute. Col. Smith also has a fellowship in micro-biology from the Johns Hopkins University. Replacing Dr. Desowitz is Major Carter Diggs, a parasitologist also from the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research.

More drugs help keep Rover Doctors mobile

Pictured above are the British Ambassador, Sir Neil Pritchard with Col. Sombat Banhansupawas and Lt. Col. Songkram Sukhontaman of the National Security Command standing beside crates of the newly arrived drugs. On the right is Mr. David Burns of the British Embassy.

A consignment of British drugs for use by Thai mobile medical units was handed over to the National Security Command last month.

This is part of a gift of drugs valued at some £4,000 which the British Government is donating to help teams of Thai doctors working to improve the health of villagers in remote areas of Thailand.

Britain has previously given Thailand 12 fully equipped Land Rovers for use in the Rover Doctor programme. These are operating in pairs — an ambulance and a dispensary — and are staffed by volunteer doctors, nurses and other personnel from Bangkok.

The Thai Rover Doctor teams spend two to three days in each village, dispense medical and dental aid to the villagers and often perform surgery in one of the specially-fitted Land Rovers. Exceptionally serious cases are taken by the Land Rovers to the nearest local hospital and, where necessary, to hospitals in Bangkok.

These experienced Thai doctors act as medical "trouble shooters" and are performing a valuable service until the Thai rural health scheme is gradually able to build up its coverage of the whole country.

The rural health scheme will have mobile medical units of its own but, unlike the Rover Doctors, these will operate from provincial hospitals or from local health centres They can also operate in remote areas, in conjunction with a helicopter service provided by the National Security Command. (BIS)

One of the mobile Land Rover units is pictured here at Wat Sadoo village school, north-east of Bangkok. This was used as a base treatment centre for patients from other villages in the area.

'GIVE AND TAKE ...IT NEVER WORKS THE COMMUNIST WAY'

says Thai who has seen for himself

For three years Charern Oonmuang travelled the back roads of his native Thailand, seeking to improve the lot of the farmers by introducing modern agricultural methods in the hilly North-East region.

He often met resistance. The farmers clung to the old ways of tilling the soil, distrusting such ideas as crop rotation. He also felt the undercurrent of Communist influences, filtering across the border from Laos and Cambodia to prejudice the villagers and farmers against their own government's efforts to help them.

Now Charern is in the United States for further education in the soil sciences. Last December he enrolled at the University of Tennessee to pursue a master's degree in agronomy.

Wide experience

Charern has long been familiar with the soil and growing crops. He was born 27 years ago on a farm in Kampaengpet Province, about 300 miles north of Bangkok.

He earned a bachelor of science degree in agronomy at Kasetsart University in Bangkok, in 1964, and became a research specialist and demonstration agent for the Thai Department of Land Development.

As head of the department's acid soil improvement experimental station, Charern conducted research in fertilization and crop rotation and travelled extensively through North-East Thailand, demonstrating new agricultural techniques. He found the region, bordering on Laos and less than two hundred miles from the hot war in Viet-Nam, fertile ground for Communist operations.

"The Communist agents come into our country and tell the farmers that the Government is not really helping them, and they use various methods to subvert the impoverished Thai. They promise our farmers many things, and sometimes they give them food and money," he said. "But eventually they take away more from our people than they give."

Suspicious of Reds

Charern says that Thai farmers are suspicious of the Communist agents, but because of poverty and ignorance, they listen to their offers.

The most effective weapon against Communism, he believes, is education and an improved standard of living brought about by better agricultural methods.

Having been reared on a farm, Charern has first-hand knowledge and appreciation of the problems and struggles of the farmer. He knows well the old ways of farming—planting and cultivating rice, corn and cotton by hand, with only the help of a team of water buffaloes.

He sees hope for Thailand's future in a widespread acceptance and use of farming techniques that have made other, and less fertile lands highly productive: fertilization, crop rotation, mechanization. He believes his studies in the United States will help him in the battle for increased crops and higher incomes for farmers.

Trade Promotion Centre planned for Bangkok

The United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) is preparing to establish a Trade Promotion Centre in Bangkok.

The Centre will be established in close co-operation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT), and the specialised agencies.

This was stated by ECAFE's Executive Secretary, U Nyun, at the close of the debate on the economic situation in Asia at the recent 24th ECAFE session in Canberra.

More than 350 delegates from 29 member countries and 20 other nations and several interested organisations attended the conference. The economic survey of Asia and the Far East, prepared by the ECAFE Secretariat for the session, formed the basis of the debate on Asia's economic situation.

The survey stated the rate of growth of output of the developing countries of the region doubled from 3.9 per cent in 1966 to 8.1 per cent in 1967. The achievement was heavily influenced by the recovery which was taking place in certain large countries of the region, chiefly in their agriculture, but also in industry.

Industrial output increases

Industrial output as a whole in the region increased by just over 5 per cent in 1967, 2 per cent less than in 1966. The growth rate had thus continued its decline below the 9 per cent level of the first half of the 1960s, the survey said. Exports of the region in the first half of 1967 increased by 2.4 per cent over the first half of 1966, while imports increased by almost 22 per cent.

The rate of export growth was well below the average annual rate of 4.4. per cent between 1960 and 1966, the report said. Imports expanded much faster than the 6 per cent per year between 1960 and 1966.

Several countries pointed to the balance-of-payments difficulties being experienced by the developing countries and made strong pleas for relaxation of trade barriers by developed countries, and greater economic co-operation between developed and developing countries.

Indonesia's Dr. Adam Malik said that unless the advanced countries were willing to assist in the economic development of the developing nations, the gap between rich and poor would widen and could prove fatal.

More aid from small countries

The deputy leader of the Australian delegation, Sir Laurence McIntyre, pointed out that while there might be little present prospect of increased assistance from some of the large aid-donor countries, smaller aid-donors were tending to increase their assistance in absolute and proportional terms.

Sir Laurence, Deputy Secretary of Australia's Department of External Affairs, said this was certainly true of Australia.

Australia's total aid programmes in 1967-68 would be 14 per cent higher than they were in 1966-67 and more than 100 per cent greater than they were six years ago.

Apart from Australia's special commitments to Papua and New Guinea, more than 90 per cent of its bilateral aid was for Asia.

This segment of the total Australian aid programme, all in the form of grants, had been increasing very rapidly, at a much higher rate than the rate of the country's national income. (AIS)

CENTO and the role of science

The CENTO Council for Scientific Education and Research highlighted the important part that science plays in developing countries at a recent meeting held in Ankara.

THE vital role of science in developing countries was emphasized by CENTO Secretary General, Mr. Turgut Menemencioglu, who inaugurated recently the 17th session of the CENTO Council for Scientific Education and Research in Ankara.

"The importance attached to co-operation in scientific matters," the Secretary General said, "was made clear by the governments associated with the Central Treaty Organization two years ago when the Economic Committee put forward a resolution on future CENTO scientific activities which was subsequently approved by the Council of Ministers. This resolution forms, in fact, the framework within which the Organization conducts its work on scientific matters."

The leader of the Iranian delegation, Dr. Ali Asghar Azad, in analysing the Council's work, stated: "The scientific programme initated last year by CENTO's Scientific Board consisting essentially of seminars, summer institutes, exchange visits between scientists, making inventories of scientific resources, has progressed with satisfaction."

A good start

Professor Dr. Atif Sengun, speaking for the Turkish delegation, said: "CENTO helps to strengthen the position of the member countries from the economic point of view and, by acting as means of exchange and coordination, to develop scientific activities. In this respect CENTO has already made a good start by providing technical assistance, scientific development, and by holding conferences and seminars. A number of promising projects are already running well in the CENTO countries."

The leader of the United Kingdom delegation, Sir William Slater, commented: "The Scientific Coordinating Board has given a new activity, a new life, to the scientific work of the Organization. Much has yet to be accomplished; there are many proposals, which have been or are being considered which now have to be implemented. When these are put into effect I am sure that we shall see very valuable results."

Stressing the dramatic pace of scientific advance, Dr. E.G. Kovach of the United States delegation said: "We must do more, and do it better, and do it faster, just to keep from falling behind. To move ahead we must redouble our efforts to use our resources to the fullest."

Asia's economy soon self-supporting

DEVELOPING Asia would soon become economically self-reliant by its own efforts and would no longer need the help of the rest of the world, said the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Fast (ECAFE), U Nyun, speaking at a press conference at the end of the 24th session of the commission which was held recently in Canberra.

U Nyun said he could not put a time limit on Asia's economic independence, but said it would come through the efforts of Asians themselves and not through outside help.

"At this conference there has been a realisation of the urgency of problems in this region," he said "We are now giving the people real hope and inspiration."

Australia's Minister for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Hasluck, who was elected chairman of the session, agreed with U Nyun that funds the commission received from its parent body, the United Nations, were inadequate. (AIS).

ITEMS IN BRIEF

Johnson, Gorton agree on Viet-Nam policy

Australia and the United States have said that the establishment of a just and viable peace in Viet-Nam calls for a strong military posture coupled with intensive diplomatic efforts.

This was stated in a joint communique issued after two days of talks in Washington last month between the Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Gorton, and President Johnson. The communique reaffirmed that allied nations fighting in Viet-Nam should participate in any peace talks, and that the United Nations would continue to keep them fully informed of the progress of preliminary negotiations in Paris.

The two leaders reaffirmed the importance of the ANZUS Treaty and the continuing co-operation between their Governments in the maintenance of stability and security in Asia and the Pacific.

In an address to the National Press Club in Washington, Mr. Gorton defended Australia's involvement in the war. He said Australia did not see it as a civil war. Australia shared the official American view that it was a test of whether small nations were to be subdued by force and whether the state or the individual was to be the unit by which humanity progresses.

Mr. Gorton said Australia's commitment in Viet-Nam, though limited, was founded on the belief that what the U.S. was doing to help the South Vietnamese was right.

new military adviser from Philippines

General Manuel T. Yan, has been appointed as Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines, succeeding General Segundo P. Velasco, who retired from the service. General Yan assumed his new appointment on May 26. He is also concurrently designated as Philippines Military Adviser to SEATO.

General Yan graduated from the Philippine Military Academy in 1941. He is a veteran of World War II and has been concerned with SEATO activities for a long time. Before assuming his new appointment, he was Vice Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and also Chief of the Philippines Constabulary (Philippines National Police).

BANK CHIEF VISITS AUSTRALIA

The Asian Development Bank has an important role to play in economic progress in Asia, the President of the Bank, Mr. Takeshi Watanabe, emphasised during a visit to Australia recently.

Mr. Watanabe said the Bank considered an improvement in agricultural productivity was an important factor in the economic and social development of the Asian region.

Ten agricultural experts, among them several Australians, had conducted surveys for agricultural development in Asian countries last July.

The first to benefit from the Bank's facilities was the Industrial Finance Corporation of Thailand, which received a loan of $5,000,000 in January. (AIS).

The changing face of Communism

Mr. Douglas Hyde (pictured right in the picture below,) noted British author and lecturer on Communism, discusses a point with SEATO Secretary General, Lieut. Gen. Jesus M. Vargas, when he visited SEATO Headquarters on May 29.

Mr. Hyde later gave a two-hour lecture in the SEATO auditorium on the changing policies and tactics of Communism to an audience composed of SEATO, Thai Government and Embassy officials, and officers of the Thai Armed Forces.

Mr. Hyde gave several talks and press conferences during his short stay in Bangkok.

Pakistan envoy visits SEATO

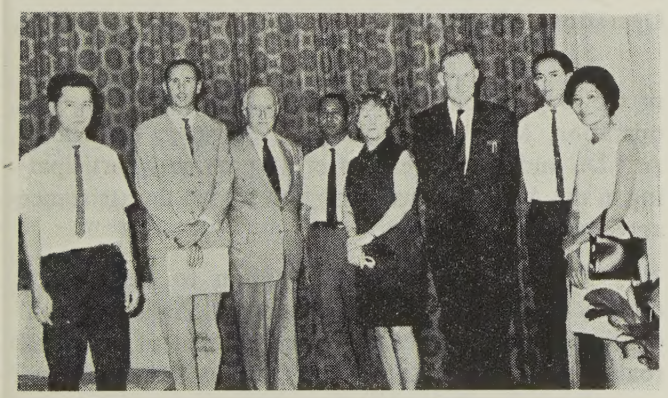
The new Pakistan Ambassador to Thailand, H.E. Mr. Mohammad Hayat Junejo, paid his first official call at SEATO Headquarters on May 17 in his capacity as Pakistan's Council Representative to SEATO.

He is pictured being greeted by Lt. Gen. Jesus M. Vargas, Secretary-General.

An expert on International law Mr. Junejo has represented his country at important international conferences including the General Assembly of the United Nations.

U.K. adviser on port affairs

A recent arrival in Bangkok was Captain E. Wood, who is to advise the Thai Ministry of Communications on Port affairs.



In the picture above Captain and Mrs. Wood are seen in the centre together with Thai and British officials, who welcomed them at Don Muang airport on their arrival.

Capt. Wood's services have been provided by Britain under the Colombo Plan. Captain Wood, accompanied by his wife, will be in Thailand for one year. He has had a long career with shipping and port concerns, starting with the British Steam Navigation Company in 1927 and joining the Aden Port Trust in 1944, retiring as Chairman last year.

MEDICAL MEN MEET AT SEATO

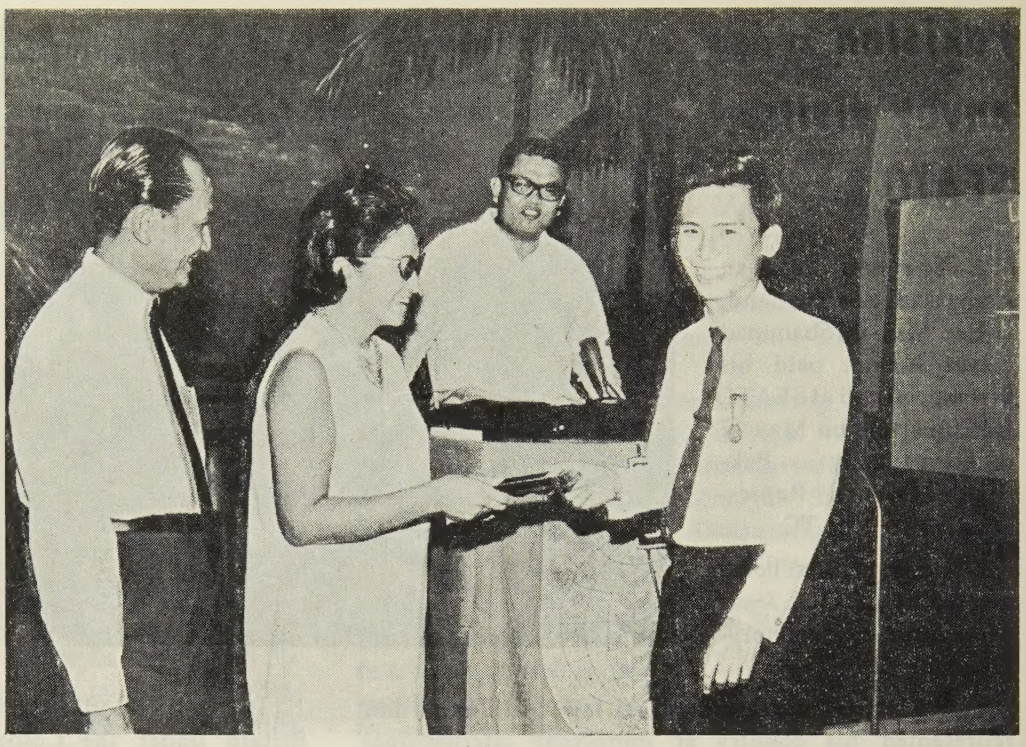
The SEATO Military Medical Committee held its second meeting at the new SEATO Headquarters building in Bangkok from June 3 to 8.

About forty delegates from Australia, the Philippines, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States attended. Observers from the SEATO Medical Research Laboratory in Bangkok also participated.

A variety of medical matters relating to the operation of SEATO forces in the Treaty Area were discussed. Special emphasis was placed on aviation medicine and tropical diseases.

A reception was given by Major General Abhichart Dhiradhamrong, Chief, SEATO Military Planning Office, in honour of delegates from participating nations.

PRIZE FOR QUIZ WINNERS

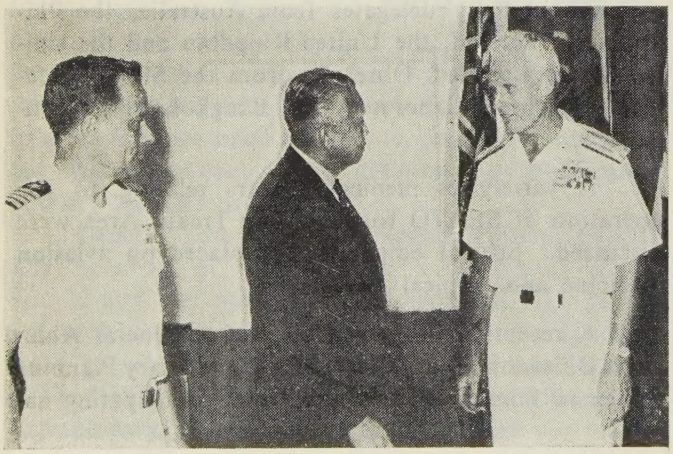


A team from the Manuel L. Quezon University gained the top prize of 500 pesos in the recently-concluded radio quiz series sponsored by SEATO and the Philippine Broadcasting Service. The picture on the right shows team captain Nicomedes Miralles receiving the cash prize and a plaque from Mrs. Ruth Limjuco, chief of the SEATO Affairs Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Looking on are Professor Irineo Balangue left, team coach, and Ray Pedroche of PBS, quiz master.

Fleet commander visits SEATO

An informal discussion on regional defence matters took place at SEATO Headquarters when Vice-Admiral William F. Bringle, pictured below, Commander of the U.S. Seventh Fleet, called on SEATO Secretary General, Lieut. Gen. Jesus M. Vargas, during a visit to Bangkok. On the left is Capt. Charles A. Barton, U.S. Naval Attache at the American Embassy in Bangkok.



ANOTHER $7.5 MILLION FOR A.R.D.

Thailand and the United States have agreed on additional U.S. assistance totalling over $7.5 million for the Accelerated Rural Development programme.

Agreements were signed on May 31 by General Prapass Charusatiara Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the A.R.D. Committee, and Mr. Howard L. Parsons, Minister-Director of the United States Operations Mission.

Maj. Gen. Chan Angsuchote, Director-General of the Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation, Mr. Prasong Sukhum, Secretary-General of A.R.D., and the Governors of 18 provinces participating in the A.R.D. programme also signed the assistance agreements.

They provide for $4.4 million to be supplied directly to the participating provinces. Assistance will consist primarily of construction equipment for rural roads, water development, and other village projects.

Assistance provided to the A.R.D office is to total over $3.1 million for engineering and technical services, assistance in training technicians for the A.R.D. programme and maintenance support for the A.R.D. engineering and repair centre at Korat. (USIS)

On your Bookshelf

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ENDA, Harry J. The World of South-East Asia; selected historical readings. By Harry J. Benda and John A. Larkin. New York, Harper & Row, 1967. xvi, 331p. 959

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(The following publications may be obtained, on request, from the Public Information Office, SEATO Headquarters, P.O. Box 517, Bangkok, Thailand.)

SEATO Annual Report 1966-67 (English, Thai) — by Lt. Gen. Jesus M. Vargas, Secretary-General of SEATO.

SEATO: 1954-1964 (Thai) — A pictorial and written review of 10 years of SEATO progress.

Story of SEATO (English, Thai)
Information pamphlet on SEATO with notes on member countries.

Manila Pact and Pacific Charter
Texts of the South-East Asia Collective Defence Treaty and the Pacific Charter, with explanatory notes.

Gandhara Sculpture in Pakistan (English, Thai)
The origin and development of Gandhara art.

Aspects of the History, Culture and Religions of Pakistan
Lectures by Dr. Ishtiaq Hussain Qureshi, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Karachi, as a travelling lecturer under the SEATO Cultural Program.

Interpretative Translations of Thai Poets
by M.R. Seni Pramoj.

SEATO Activities Under the Cultural Relations Program
SEATO activities from 1957-1964 in the field of education.

Post-graduate Studies in Asian SEATO Countries
A guide for applicants for SEATO post-graduate scholarships.

Collective Security: Shield of Freedom (Revised, 1963)
The nature and scope of the various collective security pacts linking 41 nations of the Free World. Foreword by Mr. Pote Sarasin, former Secretary-General of SEATO. 165 pp.

Medical
Research into Disease—I (Revised): Cholera (Pakistan—SEATO Cholera Research Laboratory).
Research into Disease — II: The Search for Health (SEATO medical projects in Thailand).
Research into Disease—III: Malaria (SEATO Medical Research Laboratory, Bangkok).

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Report of the SEATO Seminar on Community Development, July 19-23, 1965.

Skilled Workers for the Armed Forces (English, Thai)
A description of the SEATO Military Technical Training School, Bangkok.

Training Workers for Developing Industries (English, Thai)
An account of the SEATO Skilled Labour Project in Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand.

Posters:
Better Communications for Better Living (English, Thai)
Skilled Hands for National Progress (English, Thai)
The Painter's View of his Country — I
Good Health Key to National Prosperity
Highway To Health (SEATO-Cholera Research Laboratory, Dacca).

Communist Economic Subversion: A Reappraisal
by Dr. Hans Heymann Jr. A discussion of the growing Communist reliance on economic measures as tools of foreign policy.

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Extracts from speeches and articles on the 90th anniversary of the birth of Lenin indicating the demand for revolutionary uprising.

Communism in Decline: the Huk Campaign
by Lt. Gen. Jesus M. Vargas.

Defeating Communist Insurgency
by Sir Robert Thompson (Thai translation)

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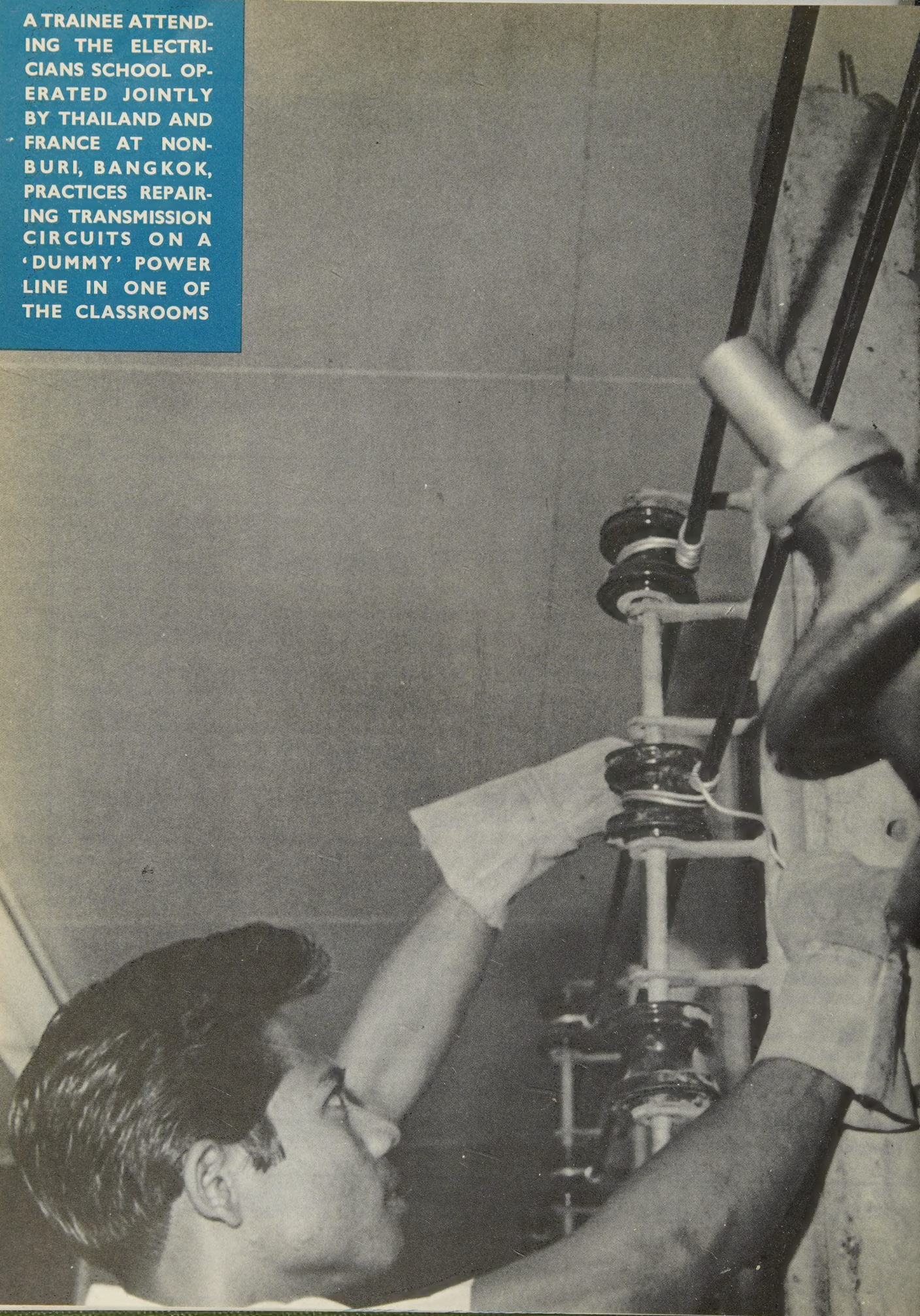

A TRAINEE ATTENDING THE ELECTRICIANS SCHOOL OPERATED JOINTLY BY THAILAND AND FRANCE AT NONBURI, BANGKOK, PRACTICES REPAIRING TRANSMISSION CIRCUITS ON A 'DUMMY' POWER LINE IN ONE OF THE CLASSROOMS